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Inter-Arab Affairs

4-Party Summit To Coordinate Peace Conference

LD2008192391 Rabat MAP in English 1300 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] Amman, Aug. 20 (MAP)—Egypt, Syria and Jordan all agree on holding an Arab summit to coordinate Arab stands regarding the proposed mideast peace conference scheduled for the coming October, a senior Palestinian official said.

Abu-Firas, member of the PLO's Executive Committee, underlined that the issue will top talks King Hussein is having with Syrian officials in Damascus, which has for its part affirmed that the Palestine Liberation Organization is ready to take part in such a summit.

The Egyptians are also ready to attend the summit, the Palestinian official said noting that working out a common Arab stand is the only way to force respect by the international community.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Receives Two Messages From Soviet Envoy

LD2008183491 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar, the president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the PLO's Executive Committee, received two important messages from the Soviet leadership this morning. The first concerns the development of the situation in the Soviet Union. The second is on the political efforts being made in the Middle East in relation to the peace process and the importance of the meeting of the Palestinian-Soviet committee on that subject.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar received the two messages when he received the ambassador of the Soviet Union in Tunis this morning.

Officials, Papers React to Soviet Events

PNC Speaker Expresses Hope

JN2008114591 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Aug 91 p 4

[By Aman al-Sa'ih]

[Excerpts] Various political, popular, and trade union sectors in Jordan have received news of Soviet developments with increasing relief. They expressed the hope that the Soviet Union will restore its position in the world as a superpower that will not allow the United States to deal with the world single-handedly. [passage omitted]

His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], said that what has taken place in the Soviet Union has astonished the world. He said he hoped this step would restore the Soviet Union's role as a firm supporter of world liberation movements, a friend of the Arab nation, and a firm defender of the Palestinian people. He added: A halt to Soviet immigration to Palestine would be a move in favor of the Palestine question. We hope that what happened was a step in this direction and in favor of our cause. We also hope that the Soviet Union will restore its natural role as a superpower, since a single-handed U.S. approach toward the world would be detrimental to our interests as well as those of the Soviets. [passage omitted]

DFLP Hopes for Emigration Halt

LD2008224791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine has called for an end of Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel, an idea discussed by his representative to Algiers, Mr. Abu Firas.

[Begin Abu Firas recording in Arabic with superimposed French translation] We hope that the developments in the USSR will represent a beginning to the end of the dictate imposed on the Middle East, particularly on the Palestinian cause and the end of directives, of American conditions put on the USSR, and the USSR's recovery of its efficient position for the consolidation of peace in the Middle East to guarantee the independent representation of the PLO in all the peace efforts, including the peace conference. We also hope to see practical and financial steps taken by the USSR, first of all an end of Soviet Jewish emigration to the occupied Palestinian territories, which is being used to build settlements at the expense of Palestinian territories and at the expense of the Palestinian people and their national rights. We hope that the USSR will now resume its solidary and efficient role in support of the fight of the Palestinian and Arab people—and of the Third World in general—so that the USSR will once again adopt its principle of supporting the just causes, freedom, and self-determination of the people and will end its policy of following the American Administration, a policy particularly visible over the past two years during the Gulf War and during the American efforts to impose an American solution on the Palestinian people and the Arab people. [end recording]

ALF Issues Statement

JN2008160991 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] A spokesman for the Central Committee of the Arab Liberation Front [ALF] has asserted that the Palestine question faced critical circumstances and was gravely harmed as a result of Gorbachev's policy, which was identical to the U.S. view on situation in the region and the future of the Arab-Zionist dispute.

In a statement issued today by the front's Central Committee regarding recent developments in the Soviet

Union, the spokesman said the question of Soviet Jewish emigration is one of the most serious issues that threatens not only the Palestinian people's rights, but also their existence on their land in light of the fierce Zionist settlement onslaught.

The spokesman hoped that the Soviet Union would make a renewed contribution to achieving an international balance on the basis of equality and respect for sovereignty and peoples' free choices away from the aggression, hegemony, and attempts at control that were exercised by the U.S. Administration over the past years. The spokesman also hoped that the militant relations between the Soviet Union and the PLO will be restored to their normal status in the struggle in the trenches against imperialism, Zionism, racism, and all forms of aggression.

Envoy to Moscow Comments

JN2008134291 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
20 Aug 91 p 22

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—Nabil 'Amr, Palestinian ambassador in Moscow, has said that current developments in the Soviet Union will dramatically affect the whole international situation, including the peace process in the Middle East.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, he said that Arab countries need to follow the developments there with great interest and should hurry to lend a helping hand to the Soviet Union, enabling it to assume its international responsibilities as a party that plays an effective and positive role in the international balance of power.

On the effects of these developments on the Palestine question, Mr. 'Amr said that it is premature to judge the political stands of the new Soviet leadership, because it will undoubtedly be engrossed in dealing with many internal issues. He noted that he met with Gennadiy Yanayev, the new president, while accompanying a Palestinian parliamentary delegation. Yanayev indicated a clear and positive stand.

Mr. 'Amr said: If we take into consideration the Soviet political stand, which is structured around Communist Party decisions, we will notice clearer Soviet support for the Palestinian people's cause and legitimate national rights.

The Palestinian ambassador in Moscow explained that the course of events in the Soviet Union recently developed to such an extent that everything suffered a crisis, starting with supplies, to disorder in the institutions, internal chaos, ethnic violence, and disturbances that threatened the infrastructure of the Soviet Union.

He continued: This situation was accompanied by an escalation of the Soviet economic crisis at a time when a wager on the West to provide serious aid failed. This situation produced effective internal forces that urged a need for self-reliance.

The Palestinian ambassador in Moscow concluded by saying that the leaders of the change have difficult tasks before them, such as controling the state of neglect caused by six years of sudden freedom for all and foreign intervention in the internal affairs of the country that almost took on a legitimate color.

End to U.S. World Supremacy Seen

TA2008183391 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
20 Aug 91 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Gorbachev's Downfall"]

[Text] Although Mikhail Gorbachev's ouster evidently took place at dawn yesterday in Moscow, his resounding downfall immediately reverberated on the walls and in the offices of the White House in Washington. Apparently fallen is what U.S. President George Bush has termed the new world order, while Gorbachev's term for it was perestroyka. This perestroyka reached a dead end according to a statement by the state emergency committee established in the Soviet Union to protect all the Soviet peoples from collapse, famine, and chaos. On this basis, all the features of that world order have also reached a dead end.

Where, then, is the open road? The indications are clear. Under the umbrella of Bush-Gorbachev harmony, the United States transformed itself into the first and only empire of the modern era, at a time when the Soviet Union was diminished to the status of a weak and exhausted country. This greatly harmed the international balance based on the concept of the two superpowers. We felt this damage or very disgraceful flaw, for example, in the status of the UN Security Council, where over several months during the Gulf war and even up to a few days ago this Council had turned into merely an American council in which the other four permanent members, the Soviet Union, France, Britain, and China, do not truly exist but are glimpses of weak and faded shadows. Others cannot leave their imprint on what Washington decides! This situation could not last long, and we believe that it actually ended as of dawn yesterday.

We can mention many examples of the lack of international balance under Gorbachev's now discarded approach, but most of all we wish the Soviet Union to achieve the unique capability to face up to the new developments, control its rhythm in accordance with its ancient heritage, consolidate its modern potentials in various spheres, and support other nations, particularly those of the Third World, in confronting U.S. hegemony over their destinies, their right to self-determination, and their national and pan-Arab causes.

Oppressed Will Not Shed Tears

TA2008163391 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic
20 Aug 91 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Communique No. 1"]

[Text] With the release of Communique No. 1 yesterday morning by the emergency committee that carried out the bloodless coup in the Soviet Union announcing Gorbachev's ouster for health reasons and a six-month state of emergency in the country, the outlines of a new phase have begun to develop within the Soviet Union. This phase will necessarily have an impact, whether negative or positive, on international security and peace due to Moscow's weight in influencing the trends of building the new world order that the United States is trying to lead, exploiting the state of helplessness experienced by the Soviet Union during the bygone era of perestroyka.

Although the outlines of the new order in Moscow have not appeared yet, the announcement of the overthrow, which contained an exposition of the circumstances and conditions of the new change, heralds the advent of a new era that can lead the Soviet nation to the beginning of an economic and political breakthrough, deviating from dependency on the American master. The emergency committee's emphasis on not yielding to the language of force by any party indicates the new leadership's awareness of the numerous perils that emanated from the Gorbachev leadership's yielding to American and European dictates in a way unworthy of a superpower like the Soviet Union.

The coming phase for the new leadership in the Soviet Union will be one of reassessment. Gorbachev overburdened the Soviet nation and undermined its prestige in the world. Observers can understand the significance of the new change in the Soviet Union by reading the reverberation of American and Israeli reactions to the absence of Gorbachev, who was an obedient tool and a bridge through which the United States was able to pursue any policies and perpetrate any crimes against oppressed nations in this ill-fated world.

Gorbachev did not leave the oppressed of this world anything to make them express regret for or shed tears over his absence. Rather, the echo in the hearts of the oppressed over Gorbachev's absence reflects the extent of the stifled human pain over the policies practiced by the Soviet Union, particularly toward Iraq, the Palestinian problem, and numerous causes of oppressed nations.

While following developments in the friendly Soviet Union with immense interest, we look forward to the day when that country will again play the role of a superpower which supports the oppressed, implements the resolutions of international legitimacy, and puts an end to American escapades and contentiousness in this world.

Gorbachev Era Meant U.S. Domination

PM2108094691 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 20 Aug 91 p 11

[Editorial: "Gorbachev Pays Price for his Relationship With West"]

[Text] Rubbing its eyes with a mixture of astonishment and disbelief, the world woke up this morning to the news about the ouster of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and the assumption of power by his deputy, Gennady Yanayev, as acting president.

It seems that the prediction that until yesterday was only a remote possibility has materialized.

Ever since former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev began leading his country away from the legacy and policies of his communist predecessors who ruled the Kremlin for nearly eight decades, there were some who thought Gorbachev would not last long in power.

But despite the disruption of internal conditions in the Soviet Union, all indications suggested that there was no concern about the fate of Gorbachev himself or of the openness and restructuring policy which he launched when he assumed power, as long as he enjoyed the support of the country's military establishment.

But beneath the surface things were moving in a different direction. There was a clear dispute between the leadership and the Soviet military establishment in several instances and on several issues, whether over Gorbachev's domestic policies and his encouragement of a new policy on relations among the Soviet republics or over foreign policy and relations with the West.

It seems that what Gorbachev regarded as openness in his relations with the West, and especially the United States, was seen by the military and by dogmatic party elements as capitulation to the West and submission to its conditions.

The news fell on the U.S. White House this morning like a bolt from the blue, as one news agency put it. The news, however, has been a source of satisfaction and even happiness in other parts of the world, especially in the Middle East.

The Soviet Union's voluntary absence from many regions of the world and the decline of its interest in the traditional relations that bound it to the developing countries caused a rapid and crucial disruption in the balance of power in favor of the United States, which recently has seemed to be the only power authorized to rule the world.

Unfortunately, Gorbachev's new line had tragic repercussions on the Arab situation, particularly the Palestinian issue. Apparently the people who have been harmed the most by "openness" are the Palestinians, who began to view with pessimism and concern the successive waves of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and Moscow's backtracking on its principled positions on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the question of political settlement.

The rate of Jewish emigration to Palestine has never increased as rapidly as it has during the Gorbachev era, with reports indicating that over 500,000 Soviet Jews have so far immigrated to occupied Palestine.

Israel has not concealed its intention to house these immigrants in its settlements, which have started grow like a fungus in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights as well.

It is not strange that many Arabs have received the news of Gorbachev's removal with satisfaction, because during his leadership Washington was able to impose its kind of peace on the Arabs. During his leadership, Washington was able to mobilize the biggest western military campaign ever to destroy Iraq and to subject it to the fiercest kind of economic embargo.

Perhaps all that the Arabs hope is to restore balance to international relations and to bring about a new world order which is not to the detriment of the weak peoples, as it has been up to now.

Algerian PLO 'Groups' Reject U.S. Peace Moves

LD2108041891 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] The PLO groups in Algeria issued a political statement on the dangers from the U.S. Administration's attempts, which aim at cancelling the PLO's role as an independent representive equal to the other parties in the proposed Middle East conference, denouncing them as a precursor to cancelling the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people—including the rights to self-determination and independence. The statement said: The PLO groups in Algeria call upon the Arab states to unify their efforts and stand in support of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of our people, and to fulfill their commitments in support of the glorious intifadah of our people, in line with their resolutions at the Arab summits, especially the Rabat and Algiers summits. We urge the masses and national and democratic forces of our Arab homeland to put all their weight behind the independence of the PLO representation and to stop the pressures of some Arab states on the PLO. The dangers surrounding the Palestinian cause are endangering not only the people of Palestine, but all the Arab peoples by letting loose the hands of expansionism, settlements, and U.S.-Israeli hegemony over our people's resources, wealth, and sovereignty over their territories. Let the Palestinian-Arab efforts unite against the U.S. solution, which does not respond to the national rights of the Palestinian people and does not impose an Israeli withdrawal from the Arab and Palestinian territories occupied in 1967.

'Ashrawi on Representation Issue, Soviet Events

JN2008184091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Interview from the "With the Events" program with Palestinian activist Hanan 'Ashrawi by Fayid Mu'addi in Jerusalem on 20 August—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, what are the latest developments concerning Palestinian representation at the peace conference in light of the recent contacts in London?

['Ashrawi] There are no developments. There is a clear Palestinian position regarding Palestinian participation and representation. This position is not negotiable and is not subject to concession or compromise. The expected development is for Israel to abandon its stance that any plan for signing a cooperation or understanding treaty should exist. [sentence as heard]

[Mu'addi] You met with experts in international law in London. Have you drawn any conclusions concerning the participation or non-participation of an East Jerusalem representative in the peace conference?

['Ashrawi] Israel's position is illegal, runs contrary to Palestinian national rights, and upholds Israel's illegal annexation of East Jerusalem. We, therefore, do not need a legal decision or advice to tell us that what Israel is asking for is illegal and unacceptable. This continues to be the general Palestinian position, and it is not negotiable.

[Mu'addi] To what extent do developments in the Soviet Union affect the peace process in the Middle East?

['Ashrawi] It is too early to speculate on future developments, but it is obvious that there will be an effect, perhaps a radical one. I believe that the developments will essentially affect the timetable and the date of the conference. But we should not speculate before knowing all the facts and what is actually happening in the Soviet Union. It would be irresponsible to look at what is happening and then make speculations. I believe that we should know all the facts so we can make responsible conclusions. The peace process may be affected, especially concerning the date of the conference and Palestinian national rights, which Israel is trying to cancel, or which the United States is trying to include in the peace process. But it is too early to talk about this now.

VOP Says 'Arafat Seeks 'Clear Agenda' on Peace

LD2108090191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Brother President leader, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, has called on all sides concerned to put forth a clear agenda on the mutual understanding of the content of the international conference to settle the Middle East issue.

In an interview published by TASS today which cited a U.S. paper, the brother president said: We have agreed upon the initiative that was proposed by the United States President, as Bush announced when he took the position supporting peace in return for Israel's withdrawal from all occupied land, including East Jerusalem, and responding to the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

He added that Israel later voiced a number of objections, particularly against the PLO's participation in the conference, against the settlement of the East Jerusalem issue, and against the principle of exchanging land for peace. Regrettably, the U.S. Administration gave in to Israeli provocations, and began to repeat the demands that had been tabled by Israel.

Brother Abu-'Ammar expressed his fears that the peace conference might not be able to solve the Palestinian issue. He did, however, announce his support for the idea of holding this conference in general. He said: Without a peace conference in the Middle East, the aggression, occupation, and oppression will continue.

'Arafat To Meet King Husayn on Joint Delegation

TA20081457911 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 18 Aug 91 p 1

[Excerpt] Amman—Informed Jordanian sources expect PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to arrive in Amman within two days to hold talks with King Husayn to coordinate positions on the regional peace process.

The sources said that King Husayn's talks with 'Arafat will focus on "achieving minimal coordination of positions over the U.S. proposals and the peace process, especially with regard to the question of forming a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the guarantees that both Jordan and the PLO have asked Washington to provide prior to the convocation of the peace conference."

The sources expect the talks to also cover "the details of the makeup of the joint delegation, some procedural issues, and the results of the talks conducted by a U.S. State Department delegation in Jordan, Israel, and the occupied territories."

Official Jordanian sources have affirmed that the United States has sent assurances "in writing" that "Washington's interpretation of Security Council Resolution 242 conforms with Jordan's interpretation" of this Resolution. [passage omitted]

Algeria

El Oumma Party, FIS To Boycott 22 Aug Meeting

LD2008043991 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Regarding political activity, it seems that the atmosphere between the El Oumma Party of Mr. Ben Youcef Ben Khedda and the government is not well. As proof of this Mr. Ben Khedda announced at the Journalism Club today that his party will take part in the meeting of the government and parties due to convene next Thursday [22 August]. Why did Mr. Ben Khedda decide on this boycott? Over to you, Ismail Yafsah:

[Yafsah] The El Oumma movement says that its hopes were dashed during the first meeting, and accuses the government of seeking to practice hegemony over the parties, guiding them according to its whims.

The movement says that the invitation to parties to attend the meeting of 22 August is a mere invitation for uncapables who are under tutelage.

After having accused Ghozali's government of weakness, the El Oumma movement records that its basic demands were not answered. They are: to free political prisoners; to compensate the victims of June 1991; and to reinstate workers in their jobs.

The news conference took the form of accusations directed against the government over its style of action. It did not provide anything new. It could be that the absence of new and tangible proposals was the reason behind the El Oumma movement's decision not to participate in the forthcoming meeting. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] The FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] also stressed today, in a statement issued by the National al-Shura Majlis and signed by Messrs. Outhmane Aissani and Tajouri Kacem, that it will not take part in the meeting of the government and parties on Thursday 22 August, and insists on its conditions to achieve dialogue.

Government, Parties Discuss Election Mechanisms

LD2008211791 Algiers APS in English 1015 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] Algiers, August 20 (APS)—Proposals given by about 40 political parties and transmitted to the government mainly center upon three main claims relative to the review of the ballot's mode, the limitation of voting by proxy and the participation of parties in all stages of the ballot, according to sources of the ministry in charge of relations with the National People's Assembly (APN).

Therefore the majority of parties claim two round uninominal voting [as received] with a third candidate at the second round. They also advocate the limitation of voting by proxy at one only and within exceptional cases. As for the division into constituencies, all parties are in favour of its review except southern constituencies.

Besides these main claims, political parties asked for advance to finance their electoral campaign, the refund of the previous campaign fees and the fair access to all public mass media. Therefore, the synthesis of these proposals will be submitted to discussion at the second government-varties meeting scheduled on next August 22 and 23 and due to be live broadcast at TV. Delegations will be led by heads of parties helped by four collaborators who could be experts appointed by each party in order to efficiently boost the commissions' works.

Egypt

Musa Receives Baker's Message on Peace Process

NC2108063191 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 21 Aug 91

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa received a message from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during a meeting with the U.S. ambassador in Cairo last night.

The message discusses U.S. efforts to invigorate the Middle East peace process and resolve the Palestinian issue, and it reiterates that the United States will continue to work seriously to achieve the desired goal of pushing the peace process forward through cooperation with all parties concerned.

Musa Phones Baker

NC2108093491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 21 Aug 91

[Text] Cairo, 21 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has telephoned U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and discussed with him the latest international developments and ways to push the Middle East peace process forward.

Minister Musa was handed a message last night from James Baker through the U.S. ambassador in Cairo.

'Quadripartite' Meeting Planned for Sep Cited

NC2008192391 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 18 Aug 91 pp 1, 2

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] The foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Palestine will hold a quadripartite meeting when the Arab League foreign ministers meet in Cairo in September. An Arab diplomatic source in Cairo said that the quardripartite meeting aims at holding further consultations and exchanging opinions on the current developments concerning the peace process. The four ministers will also seek to formulate a unified Arab position on

various issues concerning the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, before the peace conference planned for October.

Jordan's Ambassador to Cairo Nabih 'Amr al-Nimr said that Egyptian-Jordanian consultations are taking place at all levels on the recent developments concerning the peace process. The two sides, he said, are exchanging opinions and coordinating positions before the peace conference. The Jordanian ambassador referred to the letters exchanged between President Husni Mubarak and King Husayn and the meeting of the foreign ministers of both countries in Istanbul during the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] meeting. Ambassador al-Nimr said there are no plans or official preparations for a visit by King Husayn to Egypt within the coming few days.

The Jordanian ambassador said Palestinian representation in the peace conference is a matter which only the Palestinians can decide. He said Jordan will not reverse its decision to sever its administrative and legal links with the occupied West Bank, adding that Jordan supports the Palestinian issue and the PLO.

Ambassador al-Nimr expressed regret for the slow pace at which the Arab reconciliation process is progressing and said that this contradicts with the urgent need to restore solidarity.

Ambassador al-Nimr said the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] exists at the administrative level, but its activities have been entirely frozen.

The Jordanian ambassador referred to the continued suspension of all the cooperation agreements between Egypt and Jordan since the Gulf war, expressing the hope that cooperation will be revived as soon as relations return to normal.

Kuwaiti Minister Hands Amir's Message to Mubarak

NC2008152291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1438 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] Alexandria, 20 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today received a message from Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. Dhari al-'Uthman, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, handed over the message during his meeting with President Mubarak today.

Following the meeting, al-'Uthman said that the message deals with issues of common concern, as well as recent Arab and international developments.

The Kuwaiti official praised the leading and effective role played by Egypt under the leadership of President Mubarak, adding: We hope this role will lead to pressure on the Iraqi regime to release the Kuwaiti prisoners it is holding.

Soviet Charge Answers Questions on Crisis

NC2008144691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] Cairo, 20 Aug (MENA)—The Egyptian Foreign Ministry today received the full text of the statement issued by the state emergency committee currently in charge of the Soviet Union following the overthrow of President Gorbachev.

Soviet Charge d'Affaires Dr. Nikolai Tingombrov [name as received] handed over the statement during a meeting today with Ambassador Ahmad Abu-al-Ghayt, director of the Foreign Minister's Office.

Following the meeting, reporters asked Tingombrov whether the economic crisis was the main factor behind the recent events in the Soviet Union. He answered by saying that the Soviet Union is facing an economic crisis and the government is trying to resolve it.

Asked about the demands that Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin has presented to the new regime in the Soviet Union, Tingombrov said that all this will be discussed tomorrow, Wednesday, at a plenary meeting of the Soviet Parliament, as well as at the coming meeting of the Supreme Soviet.

Musa on Effects of Soviet Events on Peace Process

NC2008101691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0856 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] Cairo, 20 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that the events in the Soviet Union must be studied carefully to understand their international and regional ramifications.

Regarding the effects developments in the Soviet Union may have on the Middle East peace process, Musa pointed out that the peace process is important to world peace. The Palestinian issue, the establishment of a just and comprehensible peace in the Middle East, Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories, and the implementation of Resolution 242 must proceed regardless of any world development, Musa stressed.

He said he hopes that current developments in the Soviet Union will end in a way that allows the nation to achieve stability and continue its role in consolidating the peace process. Egypt is following the developments in the Soviet Union with extreme interest, Musa concluded, noting that the Egyptian Embassy in Moscow sends reports on the situation there.

* Government To Sell 240 Public Sector Companies

91P40404A Cairo AL-SIYASI in Arabic 21 Jul 91 p 1

[Text] In keeping with a plan drawn up by the government to reform ailing public sector companies and to correct financial and administrative deficiencies in other

companies, a number of scheduled programs are currently surfacing for the sale of 240 public sector companies to their employees and to the private sector.

This [sale] is being financed through a loan which Egypt recently acquired from the Paris International Consultative Group, which designated approximately $400 million for this purpose.

It has been decided that the sales programs will get underway at the end of this year and the beginning of next year.

The plan to sell off public sector companies and to withdraw government participation from all combined companies, in addition to the liquidation of bankrupt companies, is part of the program of economic reforms proposed to the Paris International Consultative Group by Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning.

Mubarak Creates 'Higher Press Council'

NC1908210691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1720 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Cairo, 19 Aug (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak issued a republican decree on the creation of the Higher Press Council as follows:

Article 1:
The Higher Press Council is formed under the chairmanship of Consultative Council Speaker Dr. Mustafa Kamal Hilmi with the following members:
Ibrahim 'Abd al-Fattah Nafi', chairman of the board of directors of AL-AHRAM.
Ibrahim 'Ali Sa'dah, chairman of the board of directors of AKHBAR AL-YAWM.
Samir Rajab 'Ali, chairman of the board of directors of AL-TAHRIR publishing house.
Makram Muhammad Ahmad, chairman of the board of directors of AL- HILAL publishing house and president of the journalists association.
Mahmud Sidqi al-Tuhami, chairman of the board of directors of ROSE AL-YUSUF and chief editor of ROSE AL-YUSUF Magazine.
Muhammad Salah-al-Din Munsayr, chairman of the board of directors of AL-MA'ARIF publishing house and chief editor of UKTUBAR Magazine.
Muhammad Rashad 'Abdallah, chairman of the board of directors of AL-TA'AWUN publishing house.
Mustafa Najib Nabih, chairman of the board of directors of the MENA and chief editor.
The Higher Press Council also includes the following members by virtue of their posts:
Mursi Isma'il 'Atallah, chief editor of AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I, as representative of AL-AHRAM.
Muhammad Wajdi Qandil, chief editor of AKHIR SA'AH Magazine, as representative of AKHBAR AL-YAWM .
Mahfuz Muhammad 'Awad al-Ansari, chief editor fo AL-JUMHURIYAH, as representative of AL-TAHRIR publishing house.
Mustafa Nabil 'Abd-al-Khaliq, chief editor of AL-HILAL Magazine, as representative of AL-HILAL publishing house.
Mahmud Bayyumi 'Umayrah, chief editor of AL-MAJALLAH AL- ZIRA'IYAH, as representative of AL-TA'AWUN publishing house.
Anis Muhammad Mansur, chief editor of MAYU.
Wahid Muhammad Khalid Ghazi, chief editor of AL-AHRAR.
'Adil Mahmud Husayn, chief editor of AL-SHA'B.
Philip Zaki Jallab, chief editor of AL-AHALI.
Muhammad Jamal-al-Din Isma'il Badawi, chief editor of AL-WAFD.
Muhammad Hamid 'Amarah, chief editor of AL-UMMAH.
Muhammad Mustafa Bakri, chief editor of MISR AL-FATAH.
Dr. Mamduh al-Biltaji, chief of the General Information Organization.
Fathi al-Bayyumi, chairman of the board of trustees of the Radio and Television Union.
Muhammad 'Ali al-Fiqi, president of the press and publication workers union.
Muhammad Tharwat Abazah, president of the writers union.
The decree on the composition of the Higher Press Council also names the following Egyptian public figures interested in the affairs of the press as members:
Muhammad 'Abd-al-Jawad Mansur
Musa Sabri Kamil
'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Muttalib 'Abd-al-Bari
Dr. Husayn Mu'nis Mahmud
Hafiz Mahmud Hasanayn
Mahmud 'Abd-al-Mun'im Murad
Sa'id Ibrahim Sunbul
Dr. Muhammad Samir Sirhan
Yahya Ahmad Abu-Bakr
'Abd-al-Hamid Ahmad Ibrahim Hamrush
Salamah Ahmad Salamah
Jalal Mustafa 'Isa
'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad 'Abdallah
Husayn Tal'at 'Abd-al-Hamid Zuhayri
Hilmi Muhammad Salam
Muhammad Jalal Duwaydar
Louise Luqa Jiryis
Ahmad Ibrahim Harak
Dr. Ahmad 'Umar Hashim
Dr. 'Abd-al-'Azim Ramadan
Sakinah Jamal Fu'ad
Ahmad Lutfi al-Khuli
Dr. Mufid Mahmud Shihab
Dr. Muhammad Hasan al-Zayyat
Faraj Hafiz al-Durri

The composition also includes two people engaged in legal affairs. They are:
Dr. Ahmad Salamah Muhammad
Counselor Ahmad Fathi Mursi

The Higher Press Council will hold a procedural session on Tuesday, 27 August, during which the members will

take the legal oath, members of the council bureau will be elected, and three council committees will be formed. These committees are: The press and journalists affairs committee, the financial and administrative affairs committee, and the ethics committee.

MENA learned that Muhammad 'Abd-al-Jawad Mansur and Sa'id Sunbul will be nominated as deputy chairmen of the council. Jalal 'Isa will be nominated to the post of secretary general of the Council and Ahmad Harak as assistant secretary general.

Libya

Bush's 'Blatant Interference' in USSR Assailed

LD2008215191 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] U.S. President George Bush held a news conference this afternoon, which he devoted to talking about the events that occurred in the Soviet Union at dawn yesterday.

At the start of the conference Bush expressed his shock over the developments being witnessed in the Soviet Union. He also disclosed [his] attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of the Soviet Union by announcing that he has been in contact with Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Republic, which is one of the republics constituting the Soviet Union. He also expressed anger at the support accorded to these developments by the peoples of the Third World. He mentioned, in particular, the Great Jamahiriyah and other states, which he accused of swimming against the American tide which is trying to control the world under hollow slogans using democracy as an umbrella.

The political editor of JANA commented on Bush's statements, saying: The fierce shock which afflicted Bush as a result of the victory of the dynamic forces in the Soviet Union and the overthrow of Gorbachev made him lose his senses and rendered him unable to differentiate between right and wrong. The political editor said that Bush's contact with a local leader in the Soviet Union behind the back of his leadership is, by all standards and values, an immoral and illegal act. It is blatant interference in the sovereignty of another state and an act in violation of all international laws and legalities. Would Bush consider a similar contact by the Soviet president with the governor of any American state and an agreement with him on rebellion against the authority of the U.S. state a legal act? Is this the acceptable legality? JANA's political editor added: Is it legal for George Bush to interfere in the affairs of another state and to contact a local leader behind the back of the latter's leadership, and how consistent is this with international legality? The editor said: It seems that we have entered the era of the absence of reason and logic. Bush wants to place the entire world at the threshold of anarchy.

Concerning Bush's embroiling of the name of the Great Jamahiriyah, JANA's political editor said: Bush has become accustomed to embroiling the name of the Great Jamahiriyah on every occasion, but to embroil Libya this time with others is twisted logic, for Libya, which the U.S. president claimed to be swimming against the democratic tide, is the country on whose territory direct democracy is being practiced through people's congresses and people's committees, O ignorant Bush.

Libya stands against imperialism and interference in the internal affairs of others. Libya was and will remain on the side of freedom and people's authority, to which there is no alternative authority. For his part, Bush is incapable of practicing the direct people's democracy which is being practiced in Libya, even if he remains head of the United States for another thousand years, unless the American people themselves stage a revolution and assume power through people's congresses and people's committees.

The political editor concluded his commentary on George Bush's statements by saying: The era of the masses—which has begun to march steadily, exciting feelings and dazzling the eyes—convinces us that America will one day, perhaps sooner than later, become a Jamahiriyah just like Libya. However, we are totally convinced that this will not be in the Bush era.

Al-Qadhdhafi's Views on Soviet Situation

LD2008185791 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi interviewed by Hasan Muawwad; place and date not given;—recorded]

[Excerpts] The international revolutionary leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi stressed in an interview with London Radio [BBC Arabic Service] that what happened in the Soviet Union was not surprising, but an inevitable result of the crude interference displayed by the West toward the peoples of the Soviet Union. [passage omitted] In order to ascertain the Libyan attitude, as outlined in this message, colleague Hasan Muawwad contacted Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and asked him first about the true Libyan attitude toward what is taking place in the Soviet Union. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said:

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We were not taken by surprise by what happened today because this is an inevitable result of the crude interference displayed by the West toward the peoples of the Soviet Union through Gorbachev. This is always a mistake by the West, as the West always builds its calculations on the basis of the ruler. They believed that Gorbachev is the whole of the Soviet Union—by his surrender, submission and successive concessions, a matter that led to a reaction by the living in the Soviet Union. The KGB, for example, regards itself as having been defeated by Gorbachev and the CIA. The men of the KGB did not concede; they did not simply accept defeat. The Soviet army felt it was defeated at the hands

of Gorbachev without a battle—as if a Third World war took place and it was defeated in it without fighting. The army felt injustice, a matter that led to its alliance with the KGB. The communists, generally speaking, felt that they were defeated without a battle.

[Muawwad] Do we therefore understand from what you have just said that you expect the return of communism in the Soviet Union as we used to know it prior to the Gorbachev era?

[al-Qadhdhafi] We cannot say; I personally did not think that communism existed there in the first place. But the revolution did; it is inevitable that the revolution should return. But there was a shake-up [words indistinct]. We believe that the Stalinist style has a future once more and that the capitalist defection cannot succeed. I personally expect that the jamahiri system will succeed. People's governments will be stablished in the Soviet Union along the same lines as we have in Libya—that is to say, a jamahiri regime. This is the path now open before [word indistinct] capitalism and Stalinism [words indistinct]. Socialism will triumph. I do not say communism which you yourself mentioned. [words indistinct].

[Muawwad] Alright, how do you see these events in the Soviet Union reflecting on the situation in the Arab region, particularly with regard to the peace process in the Middle East—which the Soviet Union was going to sponsor together with the United States of America—and the situation in the Gulf?

[al-Qadhdhafi] This event has no [word indistinct] effect on every day's life in the world. What I want to say is now that matters in the Soviet Union appear to be good, but i am talking about another arena—East Europe. I call for and instigate [as heard] as well as expect according to my analysis, that the important reaction will be in East Europe; I believe that an attack against the counterrevolution by another counterrevolution will begin as from now in East Europe. The success of this operation in Moscow will encourage the radical forces in East Europe to wrest the gains which (?were hit).

[Muawwad] If we return once again to the Arab region and concentrate on it, do you find a reflection for these events—can one say that the Soviet Union will return, the firm ally of these states in the Arab region, to the position it used to be in, and thus constitute a balancing factor against the other forces?

[al-Qadhdhafi] The Arab world is very interested in what is going on in Moscow, because in actual fact the fate of the Arabs lies in alliance with anti-imperialist forces. This is because alliances or friendships or relations which were established with imperialism were a calamity for the Arab peoples. The Soviet Union is an historic friend of the Arabs. We Arabs are interested in seeing the Soviet Union standing on its own feet and restoring the balance. This is an important matter which will affect the question of Palestine, the issue of Arab unity, and will put an end to imperialist arrogance. This is the beginning of the reaction. But the reaction I expect and which I call for is an international reaction in support of the Soviet Union.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Issues Statement on USSR Situation

LD2008113491 Tripoli JANA in English 0825 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 20 JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, the chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the prime minister in sisterly Sudan, made a statement to JANA on the recent developments of the Soviet Union. He said:

The disorder that beset the equilibrium of the two super powers and which disturbed the balance of power throughout the world was mainly attributed to the submissive policies that prevailed during the rule of Gorbachev, who has been overthrown. Those policies caused a lot of damages to the world interests and in particular the weak countries.

Through the political speeches, in the recent period, there was a lot of talk about international legitimacy. The deplorable events in the Gulf showed that it is a legitimacy that depends on the rule power and not the rule of law. It was based on the arrogance of domination and singularity, that was called the new international order.

We in Sudan stand by the choices of the Soviet people, as we believe that the Soviet Union has a significant role in the keep [as received] of the balance and peaceful coexistence. We appreciate the presence of another super power for the peace and stability of the world.

The world used to be slipping [words indistinct] of a new civil and political [words indistinct] the required and desired role of the Soviet Union was lacking. The existence of international balance is a premordial [as received] necessity for the being of the nations according to their choice, determination, sovereignty and integrity. The recent development in the Soviet Union may realise this balance.

More on Statement

EA2008201691 Khartoum SUNA in English 1162 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] Tripoli, 20th August— Lt-Gen 'Umar al-Bashir, the RCC [Revolution Command Council] chairman, currently in the Arab People's Republic of Jamahiriyah [as received], has pointed out that the Sudan respects the choice of the Soviet people and that the Sudan's position comes from the belief that the Soviet Union has a role to play in the preservation and the maintenance of the peaceful coexistence in the world. In a statement broadcast by the Libyan News Agency (JANA) Tuesday,

Lt-Gen 'Umar al-Bashir said the changes in the Soviet Union form a restoration of the international balance.

In Khartoum, Maj-Gen al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir, member of the RCC, has pointed out that these changes in the Soviet Union were expected by observers. He said these changes would surely lead to the restoration of balance in the international scene and that the Soviet Union's perestroyka policy has led to the imbalance of the international scene. He said it was an internal matter, but it would affect the whole world community at large. [Words indistinct] pinpointed that the changes in the Soviet Union would surely reflect on the international peace issue and the Middle East peace and the Gulf region. He said what interests the world's people is the restoration of the world balance and maintaining the balance of the world powers.

Western Sahara

* UN Official on Plans for Overseeing Referendum

91P40412A Paris LE MONDE in French
3 Aug 91 p 6

[Article by Jacques de Barrin]

[Excerpt] Bern—Strict and affable as the Swiss are known to be, Mr. Johannes Manz, formerly administrative director of the federal department of foreign affairs seems to have a strong character. A citizen of a country "acceptable" to both parties whereas "many [candidates] were too closely identified with one side or the other," he is setting out for uncharted territory with "new ideas." His course of action is clear: carry out all elements of the UN peace plan, but nothing else. He says: "It is not up to me to be the administrator of the area, I do not intend to play at viceroy." "My mission is to organize the self-determination referendum in an equitable manner and without constraints." For all that, Mr. Manz is not going to refrain from requiring the Moroccan side, as UN regulations allow him, "to suspend any law or measure which may interfere with the smooth running of the process underway."

The vanguard of the UN Mission for the Organization of a Referendum in the Western Sahara (MINURSO)—several hundred civilians, police and military—are slated to arrive on the spot around 10 August. The "blue hats" will immediately begin deployment in the area in order to be operational on the cease-fire date. With the exception of the 65,000 men who will be stationed along the berm in a defensive position and under UN supervision, Morocco has 11 weeks to withdraw the remainder of its troops from the area "according to its own timetable."

Electoral Lists That Are Growing

Mr. Manz has "no knowledge of permanent bases" belonging to the Polisario in the so-called liberated areas, but he will undertake to verify such bases when the cease-fire takes effect. He admits that a "political mission" awaits him, in establishing the billeting areas for Sahrawi soldiers during the interim period.

The special representative is unaware of the number of prisoners of war, whose exchange will take place under the auspices of the International Committee to the Red Cross [ICRC]. As for the number of political detainees, the responsibility for determining this list has been entrusted to an international law professor of Lebanese extraction, Mr. Georges Abi Saab. Most discreetly, of course! "We will have a very good idea of their number at the time of the cease-fire," states Mr. Manz. As of mid-June, King Hassan II had pardoned Sahrawi opposition members without revealing the names of the recipients. "We have asked for clarification from Morocco," the head of MINURSO says. "We are awaiting his reply."

Additional lists, additional problems: The updating of the 1974 of the Spanish census, which is used as the basis for determining the composition of the electoral body, is now complete. "We have arrived at a consolidated figure of 70,204 people," he specifies. Those whose names may have been omitted are able to file an individual application for registration.

"I do not want aggregate lists submitted to me by one side or the other," warned the special representative, making reference to the recent submissions by Morocco of two lists which, according to him, "have nothing to do with the UN's plan" and that bear the names of some 120,000 people who are supposed to be Sahrawis. If, eventually, the UN offices find themselves swamped with such a high number of individual files, this would naturally be disturbing. Mr. Manz thus calls on the two sides to "show restraint in this matter in order not to jeopardize the peace process."

Another sore subject: the location of the ballot boxes. Will the Polisario be tempted to artificially move Sahrawi refugees in the camps of Tindouf, Algeria, towards the so-called liberated territories in order to justify the opening of voting offices there? It would be out of the question for Mr. Manz to allow such an occurrence. He states firmly: "If I am presented with evidence that these people have lived in the area for a while, then I will say yes."

A Limited Number of Observers

Contrary to what Moroccan Parliament members—who criticize the Organization for African Unity [OAU] for having recognized the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR], thereby being both judge and jury—affirm, the special representative feels that "the OAU [which dealt with the file prior to handing it over to the United Nations] undeniably has a special role to play in the peace process." In his opinion, "This is an African conflict that should be resolved in an African context."

"Aside from the OAU, Morocco, the Polisario Front, Algeria, and Mauritania, the UN peace plan does not

include other observers" Mr. Manz emphasizes. Unlike what happened in Namibia, the United Nations is, in effect, the foreman of the Western Sahara referendum. The need to increase the number of observers does not therefore appear to him to be as pressing as in the preceding case.

Under these circumstances, would the "oversight committee" that several nongovernmental organizations have recently set at the initiative of the France Libertes Foundation headed by Madame Danielle Mitterand be welcomed there? The special representative states that: "Observers will be admitted in limited number and certainly not before the start of the electoral campaign because otherwise, this would not contribute to a positive atmosphere".

To carry out his mission—within budgetary limits—Mr. Manz will be assisted by a team of some 3,000 men, of whom 1,695 will be military personnel. "We arrived at the minimum required to carry out the job properly," he says. Out of a budget of $183 million, $140 million have been released to date. As for the $34 million in voluntary contributions, which will finance the transfer of Sahrawi refugees, only $10 million is yet to be collected.

However, the most important element of all in Mr. Manz's view "is the two parties' will to cooperate. If they want to impede the process, we could be five times as numerous and we still wouldn't succeed." The special representative promises to be prudent, precise and discreet," but adds that it is his intention "not to be influenced by propaganda."

Without entertaining any illusions over the fact that the "United Nations will not be welcomed with open arms" in the area, Mr. Manz, to preserve morale, starts out from "the idea that Hassan II is serious." The phased UN plan anticipates that the referendum should be held by mid-January of 1992 at the latest. "It is possible, he concluded, if everyone plays the game." This remains to be seen.

Papers Welcome Gorbachev's Ouster as New 'Start'

JN2008113391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0640 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 20 Aug (INA)—Iraqi newspapers published here today welcome the new changes in the Soviet Union and the ouster of Mikhail Gorbachev.

The papers give extensive coverage of international reactions to the course of developments in the Soviet Union. They print banner headlines and reports from archives on the Soviet leaders who assumed power since the fall of the Tsars.

In its editorial today, the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH says that Iraq is well aware that if this change, reflected in Gorbachev's absence from the political arena, assumes its real and natural proportions, will constitute a decisive blow to the new world order being imposed on the world and its peoples by the United States.

The paper, a Ministry of Defense organ, adds that Iraq hopes that the international balance will be restored in a way that will curb the hegemonic and aggressive U.S. policy and allow peoples once again to exercise their natural rights to independence and sovereignty.

The paper recalls Gorbachev's erroneous policy which harmed the free peoples of the world and asserts that what happened is an internal affair, albeit one that has far-reaching international political repercussions due to the Soviet military might, which has remained in tact.

AL-QADISIYAH says that Iraq's welcome of this change stems from its concern for the revival of bilateral ties based on real mutual respect, common interests, and liberation struggle on the one hand, and from its eagerness to restore traditional ties between Moscow and the Arab nation on the other.

AL-QADISIYAH affirms that, with the ouster of Gorbachev and his regime, the Soviet Union has effected a break with a bleak chapter in its contemporary history, which has been replete with an enormous number of negative aspects rather than positive ones. This has cost the Soviet Union its prestige and has made it abandon its role as a superpower. The paper adds that, consequently, the Soviet Union became a country threatened with famine which was begging for international aid to avert it.

The paper reviews the Soviet Union's domestic situation and the deterioration of its relations with the world's states and peoples. The paper adds: We have expressed sorrow and amazement at the Soviet decline under Gorbachev, insomuch as we have been pained by Moscow's negative stands, including the stands hostile to Iraq and the fraternal Arab states. For the handful of dollars he begged from Washington, Gorbachev's regime ignored the aggression of imperialist and colonialist powers represented by the American-Atlantic-Zionist alliance on Iraq and contented himself with the position of a passive spectator. He even went further when he rubber stamped all the unjust resolutions the Security Council passed against Iraq and its people, including the resolutions which imposed the unjust economic blockade.

The paper indicates that not only Iraq suffered as a result of these negative and hostile stands, but rather the entire Arab nation suffered, especially with regard to its fateful issues, such as the issue of our Palestinian Arab people who are suffering under the yoke of the Zionist occupation. The paper points out that this also applies to Moscow's ties with developing nations and East European countries.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says: Gorbachev's policy has largely contributed toward enabling the United States to influence world events single-handedly, especially after its suspect silence toward the anti-Iraq aggression and the results of that aggression, which allowed Washington to declare its new world order that consecrates U.S. hegemony on the world, even though Gorbachev might have detested it.

As for the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH, it says that what happened in the Soviet Union yesterday is the start of a new world in which peoples will once again determine the course of events—a world based on the debris of the international Zionist conspiracy.

In an article contributed by 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin, the paper adds that the real motives for the coup against Gorbachev and the objectives of the revolutionaries or coupists are not yet known. The paper says that all that we know and are sure of, though, is that Gorbachev acted as an American intelligence agent in the Soviet Union.

The paper says that, had it not been for Gorbachev's help, it would have been impossible for any American official to bring about the disintegration of the socialist bloc, make the socialist bloc states move from the Warsaw Pact to NATO, and make the security of Tsarist Russia so vulnerable. [passage omitted] The newspaper BABIL believes that the event that took place in the Soviet Union is a substantial start which will trigger a multifaceted chain of events in countries both nearby and in other continents.

In an article written by Mazhar 'Arif, the paper cautions that the Americans and Westerners will have to reconsider their international and regional positions and make moves here and there in world states to make up for their failure in the Soviet Union.

The article says that what happened in the Soviet Union matches the October 1917 revolution against Tsarist rule. As for the hasty American and Western reactions to Gorbachev's ouster, they are bright marks in favor of the new Soviet emergency committee, the paper adds. [passage omitted]

BABIL Views Regional Effects of Soviet Events

JN2108101991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 21 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Aug (INA)—In an editorial today, the newspaper BABIL stresses that the new leadership in the Soviet Union will need the next six months of emergency period to readjust the country's internal affairs and will not hasten to restore balance in the region.

The paper says: The United States has begun to wave the economic card in harmony with its political policies and course; namely, to strike at your enemy when he is weak before waiting until he gets stronger and suffer the inevitable losses of a later confrontation.

The paper points out that the Americans will also depend on the Arabian Gulf states, particularly Saudi Arabia and the little emirates, because regional balance on the Arab arena will not be in their interest, especially because the Soviet Union was known for its support for national revolutions and national liberation movements. The paper refers to the step taken by the new Soviet leadership to stop giving visas to Jews in "Israel" to visit the Soviet Union.

Concluding its editorial, BABIL stresses that the Americans will certainly depend mainly on improving ties with Iran—not only the Arabian Gulf states—because Iran has borders with Afghanistan and has taken advantage of the Gorbachev era to close certain gaps in its armament, particularly by purchasing MiG-29's from the Soviet Union.

Extraordinary Session of National Assembly Set

JN2008154091 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] It has been decided to hold an extraordinary session of the National Assembly at 1000 on Saturday, to 24 August 1991. Members of the National Assembly are kindly requested to attend the session on that date.

[Signed] Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the National Assembly

Foreign Minister Protests U-2 Overflight

JN2108092191 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] In a letter from Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Iraq has strongly protested the violation, once again, of Iraqi airspace by the U.S. U-2 spy plane, using the United Nations flag, under the pretext of conducting an air survey of the Iraqi territories.

The foreign minister said: On 18 August, the U.S. U-2 plane carrying the markings UN-K-0 entered Iraqi airspace from Saudi airspace. The plane disappeared in Iraqi airspace after it had approached a number of Iraqi cities, villages, and hamlets.

The foreign minister asserted that this operation constitutes another flagrant violation of Iraqi airspace and a brazen encroachment on the sanctity and sovereignty of Iraqi territories and fully contradicts the international law and principles and objectives of the UN Charter.

Following is the text of the letter:

His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general.

To start with, I would like to refer to my letter to you dated 12 August 1991 [according to an identical item carried by INA in Arabic at 2105 GMT on 20 August the letter was sent on 13 August], in which I explained to you the brazen violation by the U.S. U-2 spy plane under the pretext of conducting an aerial survey of the Iraqi territories. Very regrettably, that plane used the UN flag coercively and under the threat of applying Chapter Seven of the UN Charter, in a manner that contradicts the principles and objectives of the Charter itself and the most basic rights of the Iraqi Republic, the independent, sovereign state and one of the founding members of the United Nations.

We have explained to you and to Mr. Roplh Ekeus our legitimate objections on the use of a U.S. spy plane to conduct a survey of the Iraqi territories on behalf of the United Nations. We also made practical and fair proposals for selecting a plane and pilots from other countries, such as the Soviet Union, France, or India, or from these states collectively so that the mission to be fulfilled would not be used for purposes other than those of the United Nations.

We have also asserted that since the mission to be fulfilled is for the United Nations, then Iraq requests that the application for fulfilling the mentioned mission be submitted in writing and officially by the UN secretary general or by the UN Security Council president.

I would like also to remind you of my letter dated 19 August 1991, in which I urged you for assurance that the data and photos gathered by the mentioned U.S. plane about Iraq would remain in the possession of the United Nations for the use of the special committee referred to in UN Security Council Resolution 687; and that these photos and data would not be leaked in any way to be used for purposes other than those referred to by the United Nations, or to parties other than the United Nations.

While awaiting your answers to the matters I raised in my letters, I would like to inform you that at 1140 local time on Sunday, 18 August 1991, the U.S. plane carrying the markings UN-K-0 entered the Iraqi airspace from the Saudi airspace. The plane disappeared in Iraqi airspace at 1525 local time after it had approached a number of Iraqi cities, villages, and hamlets. This operation constitutes another flagrant violation of Iraqi airspace and a

brazen encroachment on the sanctity and sovereignty of Iraqi territories and fully contradicts the international law and the principles and objectives of the UN Charter.

While informing you of this new violation, I would like to note once again Iraq's denunciation and condemnation of this act which constitutes a serious and repeated precedent against the UN member states' sovereignty and territorial integrity and the sanctity of their airspace.

Please accept my best regards.

[Signed] Ahmad Husayn, foreign minister of the Iraqi Republic. Baghdad, 20 August 1991.

Memo to UN Protests U.S. Aircraft Violations

JN2108103091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Aug (INA)—Iraq's permanent envoy to the United Nations has submitted a memorandum to the UN secretary general protesting the U.S. violations of Iraqi airspace.

INA correspondent in New York has said that the Iraqi envoy explained that U.S. air activity inside Iraqi airspace for 18-19 August totalled 22 sorties: Nine two-aircraft sorties, one three-aircraft sortie, and one single-aircraft sortie.

The memorandum explained that the U.S. aircraft were travelling at speeds of 600 to 900 km per hour and at an altitude of 4 to 7 km over Mosul, Irbil, Dahuk, Zakho, and al-'Imadiyah.

Iraq's envoy said that on the same day, at 0850, an unidentified target infiltrated Iraqi airspace in the Safwan area at a speed of 600 km per hour. The target traveled 35 km inside Iraqi airspace and returned to Kuwaiti airspace and disappeared at 0926.

Another unidentified target infiltrated Iraqi airspace in the area to the north of Bubiyan at 1328 at a speed of 480 km per hour. It infiltrated 15 km into Iraqi airspace and returned to Kuwaiti airspace and disappeared at 1335.

National Front Condemns UN Resolutions

JN2008165691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1144 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Aug (INA)—The National Progressive and Patriotic Front has strongly condemned the recent unjust UN Security Council resolutions against Iraq, describing them as a dangerous precedent in the history of international relations and human norms.

In a statement today, the front explained that these resolutions, which were issued under the cloak of international legitimacy, constitute a deliberate violation of Iraq's sovereignty, an interference in its internal affairs, and a continuation of the unjust economic blockade against its people.

The front stressed that all unjust and aggressive anti-Iraq resolutions will not undermine the Iraqis' resolve and determination to continue their proud march to achieve a prosperous future for their country under their wise leadership.

The statement appeals to the international community, political forces and organizations, and popular organizations throughout the world to work to lift the unjust economic blockade, which became unjustifiable after Iraq's implementation of the international resolutions and its responsible and positive spirit in dealing with them.

Army Reportedly Attempts To Assasinate Saddam

NC2008152091 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] We have received the following urgent report from reliable sources:

Criminal Saddam Husayn has persisted in his tyranny and oppressive policy against our steadfast people and has continued his effort to cause a rift between the Army and the people, who are bound by firm ties greater than those (?defeated) Saddam wants. To demonstrate these firm ties, a group of heroic Iraqi Army officers stormed the republican palace last Thursday [15 Aug] in an attempt to assassinate criminal Saddam.

A battle involving light weapons ensued between the group of Army officers and Saddam's humiliated guards. At first, a number of Saddam's failed men were killed, but Saddam's guards encircled the heroic group, and all its members were martyred. The group had earlier arranged for a helicopter to be standing by in case their attempt succeeded.

We congratulate those heroes for their courage and martyrdom. The sons of rebellious Iraq, both Army and people, will continue on this sacred path to achieve the sublime goal of ridding our oppressed people of this cowardly criminal.

Rebel Radio Claims Attacks Against Army Targets

NC2008160991 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1420 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] The following are some of the operations launched by the heroes of rebellious Iraq:

1. Our heroic mujahidin of the victorious popular forces attacked security, intelligence, and Ba'th Party centers in the town of al-Dayr, 50 km north of al-Basrah Governorate during the first half of August. A number of the regime's agents in these centers were killed or wounded.

2. A group of our valiant revolutionaries attacked a 3d Corps patrol, killing all its mercenaries.

3. The heroic mujahidin attacked Ba'thist forces near the 3d Corps Headquarters in the al-Dayr area, destroying a

number of tanks and personnel carriers and killing or wounding a number of the regime's henchmen.

4. Our brave mujahidin launched a night attack on a checkpoint on the al-Madinah-al-Turabah road north of al-Basrah Governorate, killing a number of the regime's agents, including Lieutenant Talib 'Abd-al-Zahrah, who comes from al-Zubayr and played a criminal role in confronting the popular uprising. Glory and dignity to our heroic revolutionary mujahidin, who pursue the path of the father of freemen Abu-'Abdallah al-Husayn, peace be upon him.

Barzani Returns To Study 'Final Formula'

JN2008174191 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] Brother and sister listeners, here is a news item: Comrade struggler Mas'ud Barzani returned from Baghdad to Kurdistan on Tuesday, 20 August 1991. Barzani led the Kurdistan Front's delegation to Baghdad talks on a final formula and a just, peaceful, and democratic solution to the longstanding Kurdish issue. The political leadership of the Kurdistan Front will study the final formula agreed upon at the talks.

Government Paid Egyptians, Arab Workers' Dues

JN2008120891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Aug (INA)—A responsible source at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs has affirmed that Iraqi financial institutions have allowed the Egyptian brothers to transfer their savings accumulated during the first half of last year amounting to over 54 million [Iraqi] dinars in hard currency, despite the dire financial straits Iraq is experiencing.

In a statement to INA, the source affirmed Iraq's concern to protect the rights and dues of the Egyptian brothers and its commitment to pay the remaining amounts once the economic siege on Iraq is lifted, as well as its readiness to welcome any authorized Egyptian side to set up an office to look after Egyptian interests, for example, to learn in detail about the state of Egyptian workers in Iraq and ascertain the reality that they are living among their brothers in dignity and self-respect, contrary to the negative picture portrayed by some Egyptian newspapers without having any concrete information, or due to suspect motives.

The source went on to say that Iraq is committed to welcoming Arab workers coming to Iraq, including Egyptians, with an open-door policy and without placing any conditions or obstacles before them.

He affirmed that Iraq had not taken any measures at any time to restrict the residence of Egyptian laborers in Iraq or force them to leave. He pointed out that what some Egyptian newspapers have been claiming about Iraq detaining or restricting brother Egyptian laborers is sheer lies and not based on any correct information. In the best of cases, it is part and parcel of the rumors propagated by sides that do not like to see the strong bonds of fraternity continue between the Arab sons in Egypt and Iraq.

He added that the dues of the Egyptian laborers who left Iraq have been paid to them in Iraqi dinars through the authorized channels, apart from the percentage of these dues which should be paid in hard currency, and which Iraq was not able to pay as a result of the treacherous American-Atlantic-Zionist aggression and the economic siege which prevented Iraq from exporting its oil and froze and blocked Iraqi assets in foreign banks.

He said that Iraq previously announced its readiness to repay this hard currency percentage of the dues through Iraqi oil or any other Iraqi product agreed between the two countries.

The source affirmed at the conclusion of his statement that Iraq—leadership and people—cared and continues to care for the Egyptian brothers and Arabs in general who come to work in Iraq. Iraq will not spare any effort to secure a good stay and approriate living conditions for them all, inasmuch as its capabilities and circumstances allow it to do so, just like their Iraqi brothers.

Medicine, Food Shortages Cause Child Deaths

JN2008130091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 20 Aug (INA)—The number of deaths among children in the Babil Governorate in central Iraq, due to medicine and food shortages caused by the economic blockade imposed on the Iraqi people has risen to 331.

The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH, published here today, quoted Dr. Qaduri Hasan Fathi, director of the Health Department in the Babil Governorate, as saying that these were the deaths registered up to the end of July. He indicated that cholera, typhoid, and kidney diseases as well as other ailments had been caused by the bombardment of water purification complexes, the shortage of chlorine, and the damage to purification equipment and heavy water [al-miyah al-thaqilah] refining stations during the 30-state aggression. [passage omitted]

Soviet Jews Urged To Immigrate 'At Once'

TA2108094391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0900 GMT 21 Aug 91

[Text] On behalf of the Israeli Government, the Aliyah Cabinet has called on Jews in the Soviet Union to leave the country at once and immigrate to Israel. Israel is prepared to get the Jews out and absorb them here. This was stated a short time ago by Simha Dinitz, chairman of the Jewish Agency, upon emerging from a meeting of the Aliyah Cabinet. Dinitz was interviewed by IDF Radio a short time ago and here is an excerpt of his remarks:

[Begin recording] [Dinitz] All the incumbent bodies who attended the meeting issued a call on Jews in the Soviet Union to immigrate to Israel en masse, as many as possible. There are not, and there will not be, any problems whatsoever in getting them out of the Soviet Union or absorbing them in Israel. All the bodies dealing with the matter are unanimous on that message. That is also the message that should be delivered to the Israeli people and, what is more important, to the Jews in the Soviet Union.

[Correspondent] Are we technically prepared for such an eventuality?

[Dinitz] We are prepared psychologically, technically, economically, ideologically, and physically. [end recording]

Sharon: Ready for Immigration

TA2008113791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Report by Qobi Mandel]

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon, who over the past few months has been calling on Soviet Jews to expedite their immigration to Israel, today tried to calm them: The Construction and Housing Ministry is prepared to handle a mass wave of immigration, if there is one.

[Begin Sharon recording] If masses of Jews leave the USSR—which would make us very happy—we have housing solutions for them. Today we have over 10,000 housing units and other solutions, such as hotel rooms and mobile homes, of which some 5,000 are immediately available and another 5,000 can be ready within one month. The ministry has thousands of apartments ready in case of an emergency cum blessing. We can accommodate some 100,000 people, although the conditions may not be perfect. [end recording]

Visiting Nesher, near Haifa, this morning, the construction and housing minister said that the revolution taking place in the USSR could serve as a lesson.

[Begin Sharon recording] All those who speak of a new world order and of dramatic changes and positive developments in the Arab countries—such as Syria or Jordan—or among the Palestinians were again given a sobering lesson today: As long as there is no democracy in the countries with which you sign or want agreements, in general, you are dealing with shifting sand, where drastic changes take place in one day. All those who have been making prophecies and picturing the new world order have a lot to worry about today. [end recording]

Arens Comments on Soviet Crisis, Peace Process

TA2108071091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0550 GMT 21 Aug 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe on 20 August; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Menashe] Sir, in the wake of the developments in the Soviet Union, do you think we are in for a new arms race?

[Arens] That depends on whether the new rulers, whoever they may be, change the policy upheld in the Gorbachev era. Not that the Soviets did not sell arms to the Arab armies during Gorbachev's days—they did. Only a few months ago the Syrians were negotiating large-scale arms purchases. Nevertheless, arms sales were somewhat less than in previous years. I hope that trend will not be reversed.

[Menashe] Mr. Arens, did Israel foresee this process?

[Arens] We have long known that totalitarian regimes can undergo radical changes within 24 hours. I think the Americans, just like us and the European countries, knew this could happen. After all, there have been reports in the last few months—and certainly in the last few weeks—that conservative elements in the Soviet Union, in the Army, and in the KGB did not want Gorbachev in power and were displeased with his policies, but it was simply hoped that those elements would not succeed in overthrowing him.

[Menashe] Mr. Arens, all processes will apparently be stalled because of these events. Is there any news about our POW's? How do you think events in the Soviet Union will affect the negotiations on the POW's?

[Arens] We are waiting to see what the UN secretary general, who is now in the picture, will achieve. I see no reason why the upheaval in the Soviet Union should adversely affect his activities, and I hope it does not.

[Reporting on the same interview, Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0555 GMT on 21 August quotes Minister Arens as saying: "Great efforts have been invested to convene a peace conference under the joint sponsorship of the United States and the Soviet Union. At this time we do not know whether the new Soviet regime will want to be part of the peace process and take the step to establish diplomatic relations with Israel."

[The IDF Radio report goes on to say: "The defense minister nevertheless voiced his disappointment over the attitude of the Arab world to the coup in Moscow. It

is very easy to trigger support and sympathy for nondemocratic regimes in the Arab world and among the Palestinians, which is the reason for the slow pace of the peace process. We see the Arab world supporting the revolutionaries rather than Gorbachev's legitimate rule, the defense minister noted." In a recorded passage Arens says: "This comes as no surprise to us, but we are sorry about it. We see that time and again the Arab world tends to support totalitarian regimes and is not thrilled—and this is an understatement—about democratic regimes."

[The report adds: "Referring to the chances of war in our region, Minister Arens said we should wait and see what the policy of the new regime will be toward the Middle East."]

Says Peace Depends on Soviets

TA2008191691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens hopes that the upheaval in the Soviet Union will not hold up the peace process or disrupt the agreements reached with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Minister Arens said that Israel hoped that the developments in the Soviet Union would not affect aliyah and that the Jews would continue to be allowed to leave

Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the defense minister estimated that the peace conference now depends on whoever is in power in the Soviet Union and on whether those rulers will uphold Gorbachev's obligations. Minister Arens was talking to correspondents after speaking before a United Jewish Appeal delegation.

Lubrani on Effect of Gorbachev Ouster

JN2008202491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 20 Oct 91

[From the "With the Events" program]

[Text] What are the implications of the Soviet developments on the world and on us? Uri Lubrani, the government's coordinator in Lebanon and chief Israeli negotiator in the talks to release the hostages in Lebanon, said in an exclusive statement to our program that the events in the Soviet Union, including the overthrow of President Mikhail Gorbachev, will not affect the negotiations on the release of prisoners and the kidnapped in Lebanon.

On Israel's position on this issue, Mr. Lubrani said: We met with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and explained the Israeli Government's position in no uncertain terms. Mr. Perez de Cuellar now knows this position and took it upon himself to continue contacts with the other parties involved in the issue to find a solution to the hostage problem.

Mr. Lubrani added that the Israeli position is based on one main point, namely, that Israel should receive accurate and unambiguous information on the destiny of the seven missing Israelis in Lebanon and the South Lebanese Army soldiers held by the pro-Iranian Shiite Hizballah organization in Lebanon.

Mr. Lubrani added: I have seen the wife and son of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd on television requesting his release. I fully appreciate their feelings. I also saw the families of the missing Israelis on television requesting the release of their loved ones. This is a purely humanitarian question, and I hope that the families of all missing Israelis as well as the family of Shaykh 'Ubayd will join their loved ones. Mr. Lubrani stressed anew that, first of all, Israel wants to know the fate of the missing Israelis. This is a fair and fundamental demand on which we will not budge.

Asked about the possibility of allowing Red Cross representatives to visit Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd in his prison in Israel and the possibility of them visiting the Israeli prisoners in Israel, Lubrani said: We have always stressed that Israel is ready, on a reciprocal basis, to allow Red Cross representatives to visit Shaykh 'Ubayd, provided the other side gives these representatives the same chance to visit the Israeli prisoners. The fact that the subject of prisoners and missing in Lebanon is being addressed by an important and prominent figure such as the UN secretary general, Lubrani said, will give the issue the importance it deserves as a humanitarian issue of the first degree and a priority for many countries. Perez de Cuellar has taken the task on his shoulders; he has our confidence, and we will help him as much as possible.

Mr. Lubrani hoped that the current developments in the Soviet Union, including the ouster of Mikhail Gorbachev, will not hurt the chance to solve the problem of hostages in Lebanon. He said this issue has been set in motion and the UN secretary general and other concerned figures are acting seriously to find a satisfactory solution.

Asked about the implications of the Lebanese Army deployment in southern Lebanon, Mr. Lubrani said: I think the fact is now clear. Southern Lebanon is witnessing continued terrorism, as though the Lebanese Army was not deployed there at all. Israel made it absolutely clear that it does not oppose the Lebanese Army deployment in all areas north of the security belt, but at the same time, we stress that the Lebanese Army should ensure that the areas under its control should not be turned into a haven for saboteurs. Indications bear witness to the contrary, however. Saboteurs are present not only in Iqlim al-Tuffah, but also in other regions where the Lebanese Army is deployed.

Lubrani added: The deployment of the Army in the south entails no practical significance as far as Israel is concerned, but we feel annoyed when we have to retaliate on the saboteurs and still know that the Lebanese

Army is present in the region. But this does not affect the activity of the Israel Defense Forces and their military operations in those regions. Lubrani said Israel welcomed the Lebanese Army reaching a stage where it can impose its will and control and manage to restore law and order in the areas where it deploys.

Asked why the Lebanese leaders recently stopped talking about the Jazzin region and the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon, Mr. Lubrani said: I believe Lebanese officials have begun to realize that in light of the current security situation in this area, there can be no talk about any change in the deployment of Israeli forces and the South Lebanese Army under the command of Major General Antoine Lahd.

Referring to statements by Lebanese figures published recently by the Beirut-based AL-NAHAR in which they expressed reservations about the treaty of brotherhood, friendship, and cooperation between Syria and Lebanon, Lubrani said that these statements reflect the initial lack of satisfaction with Syrian attempts to dominate Lebanon and impose Damascus' will on it. Any Lebanese that respects himself and loves his country, Lubrani said, will not accept Syria imposing its will on Lebanon, including the countries' daily affairs.

He expressed his belief that the Syrian attempts are doomed to failure. He stressed that the treaty, in addition to the deteriorating security situation in southern Lebanon—where extremist terrorist organizations, including Hizballah and the Palestinian organizations are practicing their sabotage activity without any opposition from anyone—make it impossible to introduce any change in the deployment of the South Lebanese Army and the Israel Defense Forces in the region.

Asked about the possibility of Lebanon's participation in the Middle East peace conference, which is scheduled for October, Lubrani said: It is premature to go into detail on this subject. It can be said in principle, however, that Israel has always expressed readiness to open direct talks with Lebanon. We held such negotiations in (?Khaldah) in 1983 and in al-Naqurah in 1984 and 1985. We have always been ready for direct dialogue with Lebanon on any problem in the relations between the two countries.

Lubrani expressed Israel's willingness to reach a peace agreement with Lebanon and stressed that fulfilling this objective will lead to radical changes in the Middle East. He also stressed Israel's willingness to conclude similar peace treaties with all its neighbors, including Syria and Jordan.

Coup Not To Prevent Ties With USSR

TA2108092891 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Aug 91 p 3

[ITIM report]

[Excerpt] Transport Minister Moshe Qatzav said on his return from Moscow yesterday that the coup there would not prevent the re-establishment of full diplomatic ties between Israel and the Soviet Union.

Qatzav also said direct flights for Soviet immigrants could start as early as September and cooperation on joint Israeli-Soviet projects would continue. He was speaking at a press conference at Ben-Gurion Airport.

During his meeting with senior officials before and after the coup, Qatzav said, he was told the Kremlin would not back down from its decision to renew relations with Israel.

"The changes are primarily in the faces (in the government)," Qatzav told reporters. "I don't believe there will be a change in foreign policy. The Soviet Union's commitment to freedom of emigration is not a bilateral commitment to Israel alone, but an international commitment with which it opened a window to the West."

The coup had also not changed Moscow's role in a future Middle East peace conference, Qatzav said.

"As long as the Soviet Union continues its participation with Israel in various ventures and full diplomatic relations are planned, I see nothing to prevent the Soviet Union's participation in the peace process."

Qatzav also said he did not anticipate the new Soviet leaders would turn the clock back on the last five years of liberalization and democratization, spearheaded by Gorbachev. [passage omitted]

'Ashrawi on USSR, London Meeting Investigation

TA2008193091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Interview with Dr. Hannan 'Ashrawi in Jerusalem on 20 August by unidentified correspondents—videorecorded in English with Hebrew subtitles]

[Text] ['Ashrawi] I do not think that we would like to see a return to the Cold War era, but I think we would like to see a bit more balanced position by the Soviet Union and that the Soviet Union will maintain an independent political position and not totally succumb to American imperatives.

[Correspondent] What are your own feelings? Do you think the coup is good or bad for the Palestinians?

['Ashrawi] I still think that it remains to be seen. If there is going to be civil war, if there is going to be unrest in the Soviet Union for a long time—I do not think that is good for anybody, but if there is going to be an understanding with internal consensus, with democratic process in the Soviet Union then it is good for everybody.

[Correspondent] What does this do to the peace process? Is there going to be a conference in October?

['Ashrawi] I would not know. I think this might affect the time frame, the scheduling. I doubt whether it will affect the holding of the peace conference, but I think there will be a new time frame.

[Correspondent] What do you think of the police plans to investigate you and your colleagues about your meetings in London?

['Ashrawi] Well, we were not guilty of any crime. We have not broken any laws. The only crime we are guilty of is working for peace and meeting Mr. Baker. Now, if these are serious crimes in Israel then we are guilty, but we have not broken any law.

Arab Leaders Welcome Coup in USSR

TA2108103491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 21 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Zaydan Muhammad, head of the Kafr Manda local council and the spokesman of the Committee of Arab Local Councils, has said that Israel's Arab leaders welcome the coup d'etat in the Soviet Union. Muhammad noted that the coup may restore the balance between the two superpowers, and that is why the Arabs support the rise to power of the conservatives in the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

USSR Changes Seen Affecting Syria's Policies

TA2108102891 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Aug 91 pp A1, A8

[Report by Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Excerpts] Sources in Israel believe the changes in the Soviet Union might significantly affect Syria's policy in the future, to the extent that President Hafiz al-Asad could revise the policies he adopted recently.

That is the assessment emerging in the last two days. Its authors stress that this is an initial evaluation based on scarce information and on an analysis of the possible scenarios in the Soviet Union.

The current assessment is based on a previous evaluation that al-Asad changed his policy in favor of entering a dialogue with Israel when he realized that the Soviets no longer supported military actions in the region. It is now believed that if the Soviets change their foreign policy and try to regain a position of influence in the Middle East, al-Asad could perceive it as a return to the traditional policy that fully backed the Damascus regime, militarily and otherwise.

The sources believe that the Soviet policy concerning arms sales to Syria will continue and sales could even step up. If the Soviets change their policy and try to gain greater influence in the Middle East, Moscow could decide to sell new types of weapons to Syria in order to drive it away from the U.S. circle of influence, which it has recently tried to enter. [passage omitted]

The buildup in the Syrian Army and its preparations for the possible military developments have continued concurrently with the change in al-Asad's policy and despite the chances of the political process. Israeli sources believe that al-Asad recently realized that in view of the developments in the Soviet Union and in Eastern Europe he could not really count on anybody, and he grasped the meaning of U.S. power and the role it plays in the world. Nevertheless, the sources think the turnabout in al-Asad's approach is only an "exploratory" one. These considerations could change now and al-Asad could revise his policy. [passage omitted]

Sharon, Rubinstein Condemn Palestinian Joy

TA2008133391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon said that the events taking place in the Soviet Union prove that all the talk of a new world order and the ebbing of tensions may disappear overnight. Our correspondent Haviva Roger reports that during a tour of northern Israel, Minister Sharon said that it was impossible to understand the Palestinians' cries of joy over Gorbachev's fall. This is actually an expression of happiness over the end of an attempt to create an atmosphere of peace in the world.

The construction and housing minister exhorted the Jews who remain in the Soviet Union to leave quickly. He said that his ministry had taken steps to enable the absorption of a large number of immigrants following the revolution.

Knesset Member [MK] Amnon Rubinstein, chairman of the Shinuy Movement, also vehemently condemned the support of Palestinian activists for the putsch in Moscow. Rubinstein said that this was further proof that the Palestinians do not learn from their previous mistakes. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reported MK Rubinstein's remarks.

A different Palestinian viewpoint was voiced by Dr. Hannan 'Ashrawi, in a meeting with news correspondents upon her return to Israel from abroad. She does not believe that the revolution in the Soviet Union will delay the political process or the convening of the peace conference, although the timetable of the conference may indeed be affected. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Hannan 'Ashrawi said that no one should rejoice over what was happening in the Soviet Union and added that the Palestinians did not want to see any reversal in the progress of Soviet democracy.

Bush Statement on Pollard Release Criticized

TA1708093891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Deputy Minister Ge'ula Kohen [Tehiya] and Knesset Member 'Edna Solodar [Labor Party] criticized

President Bush's statements rejecting the possibility of his awarding any pardon to Jonathan Pollard.

Kohen and Solodar head the lobby for Pollard's release. They said that Pollard did not engage in espionage against the United States. Out of concern for Israel's security, he made the mistake of giving Israel crucial information about the nonconventional weapons of the Arab countries. The two women noted that Pollard had expressed contrition for his actions. They said that the Israeli Government should demand Pollard's immediate release from the United States.

Editorial Urges Release

TA1808102391 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Aug 91 p 6

[Editorial: "The Pollard Issue"]

[Text] President George Bush's refusal yesterday to consider commuting Jonathan Pollard's life sentence as a gesture within the framework of the hostage negotiations is understandable. As Bush aptly put it, Pollard was tried and convicted in a democratic country, enjoying all the safeguards of due process. He could not, by any stretch of the imagination, be called a hostage. True, Israel and European countries—particularly France, Germany, Italy and Belgium—have all released convicted terrorists in exchange for hostages. But the demands for their release had come from murderers and blackmailers acting as proxies of terrorist-sponsoring states. For citizens of a democracy to demand Pollard's freedom in this context is ill-advised. Bush had no choice but to turn it down.

But this does not mean that the disturbing Pollard issue should not be addressed. The question is not whether Pollard is guilty of a very serious crime—he was a member of the U.S. armed forces who confessed to sending Israel classified information—but whether his sentence was just and his treatment fair.

Pollard, it should be remembered, spied *in* the United States, not *against* it. He spied for an ally, believing he was protecting Israel from a threat which has since proved frighteningly real. He acted because he believed the U.S. was not living up to its commitment to provide Israel with precisely this kind of information. None of this excuses his crimes. But no court should ignore extenuating circumstances when passing sentence, particularly when state secrets are transmitted to an ally, not an enemy, and American security is not compromised.

The normal treatment for non-Americans who spy for America's allies in peace-time is expulsion. American citizens found guilty of such crimes are sentenced to a few years in jail, with as little publicity as possible. One cannot imagine an American spying, say, for Britain in World War II—even before the U.S. became involved in the war—receiving life in prison. Even some American spies for the Soviet Union, who were guilty of treason and of causing untold harm to the U.S., have received milder sentences. That Pollard was, without reason, first confined to a hospital for the criminally insane and then, after confessing, sentenced to life imprisonment and placed in an isolation cell in one of America's toughest high-security prison, seems to have been unwarranted and vindictive. It is difficult to escape the impression that he has been the victim of double standards.

Unfortunately, Pollard has had few pleaders in the organized American Jewish community. The fear of the "dual loyalty" charge is still so pervasive that most of the community's leaders have kept away from the Pollard case as from the plague. But they should remember that Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger's intervention in the case was the most decisive factor in the judge's decision to impose the harsh sentence. And that only Weinberger's dislike for Israel, described by one of his aides as "almost visceral," could have made him assert that Pollard had done more harm to the U.S. than any other spy—this at a time of some of the most damaging breaches in history of American security by Soviet spies.

The U.S. is a humane society with a strong sense of justice and sympathy for repentance. It surely can find a way to reconsider Pollard's punishment. By all accepted standards, Pollard, who has expressed contrition and remorse, has paid his debt for the crime he committed. It is to be hoped, too, that the organized Jewish community in America will overcome its unseemly timidity and plead for him. The issue is not of dual loyalty but of a double standard, of a Jew being punished more cruelly because he is a Jew who spied for Israel.

Romanian President To Pay Official Visit

TA1808104791 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Aug 91 p 4

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Text] Romanian President Ion Iliescu will pay an official visit to Israel in early September.

He will be here for three days, during which he will meet with the president, prime minister, and foreign minister, as well as Knesset members. He will also visit Jerusalem and the Christian holy places.

Iliescu will be accompanied by a large entourage, which will include the foreign minister and senior officials, as well as 50 journalists.

Israel sent a donation of 200 blankets to Romania recently as help for flood victims in the northeastern part of the country. Tzvi Mazel, Israel's ambassador in Romania, will hand the blankets over to the authorities.

Ne'eman Offers Albania Scientific Aid

TA2008150091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] Israel is offering Albania aid and advice in solar energy and other scientific fields. Professor Yuval Ne'eman, minister of energy and infrastructure and of

science and technology, said this in a meeting with the Albanian Foreign Minister Muhamet Kapllani. Ne'eman raised the solar installations set up in the Hilel Yafe Hospital in Hadera and at other sites in Israel as examples and said that Israel could offer Albania such installations. Ne'eman also offered advice in the fields of geology and geophysics.

The Albanian foreign minister said that his country is indeed in need of Israeli know how in these fields, especially how to operate Albania's refineries, which are not fully exploited.

Government Finances Aid for PRC Flood Victims

TA2008085091 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Aug 91 p 14

[Report by Judy Siegel]

[Text] Magen David Adom is sending emergency medical supplies for the first time to the Chinese Red Cross as part of the international effort to aid victims of recent heavy flooding in the southeastern part of the country.

The supplies, requested by the Chinese health authorities, were paid for by the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem. The 40-kilo package includes antibiotics, medicine for gastro-intestinal infections, and powder for killing microbes in drinking water.

The medicine, due to arrive by diplomatic pouch this week, will be received in Beijing by Ze'ev Sufot and Yosef Shalhevet, emissaries of the Israel Academy of Sciences, who will hand it over to the Chinese Red Cross.

Magen David Adom officials said yesterday they hope this first example of cooperation between the two voluntary organizations would lead to further ties in the health field.

Leaflets in Territories Call for 'Arafat Ouster

TA2008193791 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Excerpts] A new phenomenon in the territories: a plethora of leaflets personally denouncing Yasir 'Arafat, a series of virulent and unprecedented personal attacks. [passage omitted]

Today we received a new leaflet calling for 'Arafat's ouster. This leaflet is signed by the 12th January movement. This is the date of Abu-Iyad's [Salah Khalaf] murder at the beginning of this year. The leaflet ridicules 'Arafat for having gambled on the fate of the Palestinian people by siding with Iraq. Along with this leaflet, there is a detailed many-paged document attacking 'Arafat, which is signed by the same movement. This booklet accuses 'Arafat of responsibility for the Palestinian setbacks, and for the Arab boycott against the PLO. 'Arafat is also criticized for his dictatorial style and for his attempts to impose his positions on the Palestinians in the territories. 'Arafat is now exercising extreme caution regarding Soviet developments so as not to repeat the mistakes he made during the Kuwaiti crisis.

IDF Approves Placement of Trailers in Hebron

TA2108053191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 21 Aug 91

[Text] Overnight, settlers in Hebron placed some 10 temporary buildings in an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] outpost at the local old bus station. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0400 GMT on 21 August notes that "ownership of the area of the old bus station is in dispute."] Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the temporary buildings will be used as dorms for students of the Shavey Hevron Yeshiva until renovation work in the building at Bet Romano has been completed. Large IDF forces have been deployed in Hebron to oversee the placement of the trailers.

Overnight, a delegation of Arab notables complained to the military governor of Hebron about the placement of the trailers, saying they feared this act could trigger turmoil in the city. Our correspondent points out that the defense minister and the IDF approved the placement of trailers in Hebron.

Foreign Ministry 'Misled' on Ethiopia Airlift

TA2008144891 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1429 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] The Foreign Ministry's announcement on the expected immigration of the 2,600 remaining Jews in Ethiopia to Israel in the next few days was based on agreements with unauthorized elements. The Jewish Agency's representative was informed of this during a meeting with the representatives of the Ethiopian Government today.

Sources at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem responded by saying that the Foreign Ministry had been misled regarding the agreements on flying the rest of the Ethiopian Jewish community to Israel.

King Returns, Comments on Soviet Developments

JN2008114091 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] His majesty the king returned home today after concluding a working two-day visit to Syria. During the visit, his majesty exchanged views with President Hafiz al-Asad on issues related to Middle East peace efforts and the proposed solutions. Discussions also dealt with boosting bilateral relations between Jordan and Syria and following up on topics dealt with by the joint Jordanian-Syrian committee. His majesty the king answered questions by our reporter 'Ali Hamati:

[Beging recording] [Hamati] Your Majesty, what is your assessment to the talks between Jordan and Syria and have you assessed the ouster of President Gorbachev?

[Husayn] As far as the talks are concerned, it was a very timely visit and a wonderful occasion to have the chance to discuss in depth and in absolute candor and frankness all the matters of mutual interest and I am very, very happy indeed with the results. I think our positions are very similar, our views are similar, and I am very grateful to my brother President al-Asad for his kind and warm hospitality and the opportunity for this visit to have taken place.

Regarding the second part of the question, the Soviet Union has always been a good friend of ours and we are watching obviously, as is the world, developments there in the hope that they will end up well somehow and that this friendship will continue to be something on which we build to our mutual benefit.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you think, Your Majesty, it would affect the peace process—the changes and development in the Soviet Union?

[Husayn] I don't see why it should or whether I am in a position to comment on that as yet. We are still observing what's happening with the greatest of interest and concern and hopes for the future. [end recording]

Editorial on Syria Visit

JN2108082691 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Aug 91 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "King Husayn's Successful Visit to Syria Laid the Foundations of Arab Cooperation"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Syria assumes extraordinary significance by virtue of its appropriate timing and because it aimed at bolstering cooperation and coordination among the frontline states and the PLO to participate in the peace conference with a unified stance and speaking the same language.

King Husayn's visit, which coincided with the overthrow of Gorbachev at the hands of Soviet parties that are known for their friendship with the Arabs, has added another important, satisfactory dimension to the talks between His Majesty King Husayn and President al-Asad that contributed to the successful outcome of the visit, in addition to the two parties' concern to cooperate and exchange views on settlement efforts.

The visit, as His Majesty King Husayn asserted, was successful. The talks were also extremely valuable, and the visit achieved its aspired success, especially given his majesty's assertion that there is an Arab and Palestinian eagerness to make the negotiations for a peaceful settlement succeed so as to achieve a just, comprehensive, and enduring peace in the region.

If the recent developments in the friendly Soviet Union, which led to Gorbachev's ouster and created a leadership that is known for its friendship with Arabs and its support for their just causes, primarily the Palestinian cause, do not positively affect the peace process, they will not have a negative effect either. The friendly Soviet Union is known for its historic stands in support of just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region. The Soviet Union has indeed done a great deal toward that end.

We believe that the Arabs and Palestinians have welcomed, and will continue to welcome, the positive Soviet role in the efforts for a peaceful settlement. What is important is that there should not be any U.S. or Israeli retreat concerning the Soviet role in the peace conference or the settlement process in general.

The good thing that inspires optimism and satisfaction is that King Husayn's visit to brotherly Syria has achieved the hoped-for success, consolidated understanding, and laid down a strong groundwork for coordination and cooperation between the two brotherly countries. This is an encouraging sign to expand the circle of cooperation mandated by a dire need to make it include all the frontline states, the PLO, and other Arab parties if possible.

Thus, through his invaluable initiative, His Majesty King Husayn has managed to reactivate efforts of cooperation and coordination among Arab brothers, continuing his pioneering role to crystallize a unified Arab position and pool Arab capabilities to serve just peace and restore Arab and Palestinian lands and rights.

Reaction to Events in Soviet Union Reported

No Official Comment Issued

JN2008104591 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Aug 91 pp 1, 5

[By Nirmin Murad]

[Excerpts] Amman—The Jordanian Government issued no official comment on the sudden change of Soviet leadership Monday, but officials expected that the removal of President Mikhail Gorbachev from power would have profound impact on international relations

and could mean a qualitative change for political developments in the Middle East.

"Any political development of this magnitude is bound to have its impact on the global level with the Middle East being no exception," Information Minister Khalid al-Karaki told reporters. But, he added that it was too early to make any judgement. "We are closely monitoring the developments," he said.

A senior government official said the dramatic developments in Moscow had shifted the focus of the talks that His Majesty King Husayn was having with Syria President Hafiz al-Asad.

"The central theme of the King's talks with President al-Asad will be possible impact of the changes in the Soviet Union on the Middle East peace process and other related issues," said the official, who asked for anonymity.

Jordan's ambassador to the Soviet Union, Muhammad al-'Adwan, told the JORDAN TIMES that "major qualitative change" was expected after the removal of Mr. Gorbachev. [passage omitted]

A senior Foreign Ministry official told the JORDAN TIMES that Jordan's position during the Gulf crisis and ensuing war may in fact contribute to better relations with the Soviet Union.

"Jordan stayed neutral. It did not join the coalition forces against Iraq so it did not place its bets on the U.S. and Gorbachev," said the official, who requested anonymity.

"Other countries in the region, traditionally friends of the Soviet Union of yesterday, bet on Gorbachev's horse [sentence as published]. We did not do that," he said.

"I expect we would be looked at more favourably by this Soviet leadership compared with others (in the region)," he added.

A major reason for the coup was also the status of the Soviet Union as a superpower, Jordanian officials agree, citing a statement made by the new leadership of the Soviet Union Monday in which it rejected taking dictates from outside.

"This is a clear indication that the new leaders will go back to pursuing a more independent policy (than Mr. Gorbachev's) which could only be positive for countries of the Third World," another government official told the JORDAN TIMES.

On the peace process, the officials said that it was not yet clear whether the proposed conference would be held as planned in view of the latest developments.

"The peace conference as an idea may not be affected," an official said.

"But the Soviet Union, under the new leadership, would want to co- sponsor the conference at par with the U.S. and not as a junior partner."

A senior Jordanian diplomat said it would not become clear how the new leadership will view the proposed conference until "we know whether there will be a new foreign minister, and if so who will be."

The diplomat, however, said that if the new leadership chooses to be at odds with the United States "we can expect an upsurge of regional conflicts. We will go back to the days of Afghanistan."

Another Jordanian official, who also requested anonymity, said it was still too early to predict whether the new Soviet leadership will choose a conflicting path with the Americans but added that initial statements Monday showed "that they will pose some opposition to the U.S. policies both on the Soviet Union and internationally."

Political Figures Welcome Changes

JN2008140091 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Aug 91 p 6

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpts] There is a consensus among observers that the ousting of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and the assumption of power by an emergency committee under labor leader Gennadiy Yanayev yesterday has generated distinct and important reactions in Jordanian circles and among Jordanian political movements. [passage omitted]

Dr. Ya'qub Zayadin, secretary general of the Jordanian Communist Party, described President Yanayev as a Communist to the bone. He added: In principle, perestroyka is a revolutionary operation that seeks to correct the mistakes and negative aspects that have accumulated over the past 70 years in the political, economic, social, and partisan fields.

Dr. Zayadin said: It is regrettable that the team which took upon itself to carry out reforms was not as homogeneous a team as should be, has not accurately assessed the mistakes and negative aspects, and has not offered any ready-made solutions to tackle these intricate problems.

Dr. Zayadin added: During the reform process, Gorbachev committed serious mistakes that further complicated problems, not to mention that there emerged Zionist, hostile, and Mafia trends which had skillfully and shrewdly operated in secret for years and had worked to entrench paralysis and backwardness in the Soviet Union.

Now that all these stands and trends have been exposed, we hope that this change will deal a blow to all the forces that are hostile to progress and humanitarian and democratic socialism in the Soviet Union. We hope the Soviet people will overcome the difficulties that they

may face and we have great confidence in them. However, I do not expect major changes in the near future. [passage omitted]

Deputy Bassam Haddadin issued a statement in which he said that the new developments in the Soviet Union will greatly affect its future and its international relations. We hope that these developments will have a positive impact on the balance of power and will check the U.S. attempt to single-handedly define the new world order.

Haddadin added: While our people are following what is taking place in the Soviet Union with great interest, they hope that the Soviet Union will resume its great role in support of Arab rights and for the oppressed people's struggle and their right to liberation and national independence. Our people hope that the new Soviet leadership will adopt a firm policy that will check the U.S. attempt to tackle the Middle East cause single-handedly, check the Soviet Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine, and correct the Soviet stand in the UN Security Council with respect to Iraq and the causes pertaining to the Arab-Israeli conflict. [passage omitted]

Leftist Parties Welcome Events

JN2008104891 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Aug 91 p 3

[By Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—Leaders of leftist parties in Jordan Monday welcomed the exit of Mikhail Gorbachev from the international political scene, saying that the Soviet Union had not only ceased to be a world superpower but had been paralysed by the former Soviet leader's unfulfilled political and economic programme known to the world as perestroika.

Citing a significant change in Soviet foreign policy, in particular towards developing nations in the Middle East, leaders of Jordan's main leftist parties said they hoped the change would reverse the Soviet attitude towards the problems of developing nations.

"Mr. Gorbachev failed to deal in any adequate way with the domestic problems that his country is facing," said 'Isa Madanat, Jordan's only Communist member of Parliament. "There can be no doubt that the Soviet Union was heading towards an internal break-up as a result of the perestroika policies and the Soviet weakness to the uni-polar power, the United States."

Reflecting the general attitude of leftists in the country, Mr. Madanat said: "We hope that with Gorbachev gone, the Soviets will have another chance to keep their country in one piece and deal with their internal problems and reform their foreign policy to one that is independent of United States dictates."

Another leading member of the once outlawed Jordanian Communist Party, Emilie Nafa' said that while she had initially welcomed perestroika as a format in which the Soviet Union would move towards a democratic socialist state, the policy introduced by the former Soviet leader almost five years ago had failed to have that desired effect.

"We hope that now the Soviet Union will get back on course to develop a framework which will allow a more democratic socialist system to govern," Mrs. Nafa' said. "To catapult a society such as the Soviet Union from a strict communist one to a capitalist one is rather unrealistic and thus was never expected to work."

Meanwhile, the head of the specialist-oriented Jordan Peoples Democratic Party (JPDP) said that the group's Exectuve Committee had met to decide on an official position on the question of the power change in the Soviet Union.

"We hope that the changes in the Soviet Union will bring back a balance of power to the international political arena," said Taysir al-Zibri, head of the JPDP.

Commenting on the Soviet Middle East policy of late, Mr. al-Zibri said that he also hoped the Soviet government would reassess its willingness to re-establish diplomatic relation with Israel.

"The old policy had been to re-establish ties only after the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. But as a result of the strong American influence of Gorbachev, the Soviets had recently agreed to resume ties at the beginning of a peace conference," Mr. al-Zibri said.

"This would mean regardless of Israeli application of the resolutions 242 and 338 they would establish relations, which is quite contrary to their previous conditional stand."

Lower House Deputy Dhib Marji, a leading member of the Marxist Jordan Popular Unity Party (JPUP), reacted by saying the world needed a balance which it had lost.

"I believe in a balanced world and a uni-polar world is not balanced," the Irbid deputy said in a telephone interview. "Gorbachev effectively worked towards the creation of this uni-polar world as much as George Bush so his continued presence as Soviet President was really not desirable.

"We don't know what will happen in the Soviet Union now and of course we hope that internal problems will remain minimal, but overall, we feel that Gorbachev's departure is a positive thing," he said.

Mr. Marji, like Mr. al-Zibri, expressed hope that massive Jewish Soviet immigration to Israel and the occupied Arab lands would be curbed as a result of Monday's changes in leadership.

"Mr. Gorbachev made the large influx of Soviet Jewry to the Middle East possible. We hope those who take his place will curb this trend," he said.

Yusuf Hurani, a member of the political bureau of the socialist Jordan Democratic Party, said that the two most important immediate aspects of the political changes taking place in the Soviet Union would be to maintain internal unity and to recreate a balance of international political forces.

"The new ruling forces in the Soviet Union must find a formula to maintain national unity in the state and to recreate a bi-polar international political system," Mr. Hurani said.

Walid Khayyat, a popular leftist leader who heads the Electrical Workers Union and is a member of the Executive Committee of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society, also welcomed the changes in the Soviet Union.

"The Jordanian people suffered as a result of the Soviet subservience to the policies of the United States," Mr. Khayyat told the Jordan Times. "We received the news about the Soviet Union with great comfort and congratulate the Soviet people on their new leadership."

Mr. Khayyat said that the new Soviet president, Gennaday Yanayev, was a former president of labour unions and that as such he was a friend of the working class.

"I believe that the Soviets will end their blind acceptance of American hegemony over the world and will reinstate some of their previous policies," Mr. Khayyat said.

Among the pre-perestroika policies that Mr. Khayyat said he hoped the Soviet government would reinstate was a serious domestic economic policy and a rebuff of Zionist influences.

'News Analysis' on Developments

JN2008125191 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Aug 91 pp 1, 5

["News analysis" by Lamis K. Andoni: "America's Dominating Role in Mideast Could Be Undercut"]

[Text] Amman—If the new hardline Communist Soviet leadership succeeded in holding the country together, Moscow will be able to reassert its traditional influence in the Middle East and will consequently undercut Washington's monopoly of the regional peace process, according to Jordanian and Palestinian analysts.

But if the abrupt change triggered a civil war or the pro-Western reformists prevailed in a power struggle, the Soviet role will be further undermined, consolidating the U.S. and Israeli interests in the region, they say.

A reassertion of the traditional Soviet role will provide the counter-balance aspired by the Arab side to the American support of Israel at the proposed Middle East peace conference, the analysts maintain.

In the immediate term, however, the changes might hinder the peace process as the U.S. is expected to reconsider the Soviet co-sponsorship of the peace conference, which was supposed to convene next October.

"We have to remember that the peace conference was based on a deep American-Soviet understanding," said Palestinian Communist Party leader Sulayman al-Najjab.

Mr. Al-Najjab, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Executive Committee, expressed hope that the new changes will result in "genuine co-sponsorship of the peace conference away from subservience to American policies."

"A reassertion of the Soviet role and political weight will restore the balance to international politics and facilitate a balanced application of United Nations resolutions and international law in the Middle East without the double standards imposed by the U.S.," said Dr. Munir Hamarnah, a prominent analyst from the leadership of the Jordanian Communist Party.

Many analysts and officials in the Arab World believe that had the Soviet Union maintained its role as a superpower the U.S. would not have been able to launch and lead an international alliance against Iraq.

The consolidation of the U.S.' influence in the Middle East as a result of the Gulf war is viewed by analysts as a source of a dangerous political and military imbalance which has given Washington and Israel the upper hand in determining the course of the peace process.

Prior to the collapse of the Soviet Union's role as a superpower, many Arab countries, especially Jordan, and the PLO had long sought an active Soviet role in an international conference.

But the U.S. had only recently accepted a Soviet co-sponsorship, which many Arabs regard as superficial and an indication of Mr. Gorbachev's subservience to the West rather than an assertion of Moscow's role.

Critics and opponents of the current peace process have constantly argued that in the absence of an effective Soviet role and an Arab military counter-balance to Israel—which was dealt away with the Iraqi defeat in the Gulf war—the proposed peace conference would amount to Arab capitulation.

In the past the Soviet Union supported an independent and effective representation of the PLO at the conference, the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, an active major role for the United Nations at the conference and complete Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem.

But Mr. Gorbachev had effectively dropped these Soviet demands by accepting the American conditions and giving Washington the supreme lead in the peace process.

The overthrow of Mr. Gorbachev has sparked hope that Moscow will pick up all or even some of its old demands to back the Arab negotiating position, analysts say. The hopes were strengthened by the fact that the hardliners had opposed Mr. Gorbachev's foreign policy and the military establishment is known to be pro-Arab.

Jordanian and Palestinian specialists in Soviet affairs expect the changes in the Soviet leadership to at least put a stop to what they view as a slide downward in the Arab and particularly the Palestinian negotiating position.

"The U.S. has so far been steering the course of the process in its own and in Israel's favour with Soviet support. Now it will have to do that without Soviet backing," said Qays 'Abd-al-Karim Abu Layla of the Damascus-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which had maintained close ties with the traditional Soviet ledership.

PLO officials familiar with the background of the new Moscow leadership expect a decline in Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel not only because of martial law, which was imposed by the government, but also because some of the new leaders had expressed public objection to Jewish immigration in the past.

Other Jordanian experts on Soviet affairs, however, expressed a more cautious attitude towards the developments.

"It is premature to be optimistic. The conflict has not been won yet," said Dr. Hisham Ghasib, who has delivered several lectures on the political system in the Soviet Union over the last few years.

In Dr. Ghasib's view, Moscow's ability to reassert its influence in international politics will depend on the new leadership's success in offering solutions for the difficult political and economic problems that plague the Soviet Union and its ability to keep the union from disintegrating and bring about democratic reforms.

"The new leadership cannot avoid political and democratic reforms if it really wants to regain the support for its Communist principles, including its foreign policies which had prompted Moscow to support national liberation movements in the past," said Dr. Ghasib.

The danger of the new Soviet leaders not pursuing democratisation, according to both Dr. Ghasib and Dr. Hammarnah, lies in that right-wing pro-Western movements will just develop and spread under the surface and then suddenly forcefully backfire against the regime.

"The example of the failure of the Polish dictatorship in suppressing Solidarity (the opposition labour movement) is still very valid," said Dr. Hammarnah.

Therefore, if the new leadership in the Soviet Union succeeded in maintaining the unity of the country and holding to power without gaining real popular support the reasertion of a Soviet policy more sympathetic to Arab interests will be short lived, Dr. Ghasib and Dr. Hamarnah warned.

In the immediate term—again, barring a civil war and heavy Western interference—the changes in the Soviet Union are expected to prompt the U.S., Europe and even the U.S. allies in the Arab World to reconsider their position on the peace process.

"The U.S. might reconsider its tactics which were based on its complete monopoly of the process," said Jamil Hilal, head of the PLO's information office in Tunis and a prominent Palestinian writer.

Mr. Abu Layla, who is based in Damascus, does not outrule the possibility that the U.S. will not introduce new terms for Soviet participation in the peace conference to undercut Moscow's role.

At the same time, both Mr. Abu Layla and Dr. Hilal expect Europe, especially France, to find a chance to reassert a more significant role in the region, which has been dominated by the U.S.

Analysts do not expect the new Soviet leadership to immediately challenge the U.S. trying to restore its status as a superpower and its influence in the Middle East. They expect Moscow to pursue what they term as an initially soft policy until it consolidates its power. "But the nature of the domestic policy will definitely be reflected on its foreign policy," points out Dr. Ghasib.

He and other analysts cite the new leadership's opposition to free market economy as an indication of "foreign policies which are freer and independent from Western and American influence."

"But it's not clear if the new leadership is really ready to restore the principles of internationalist communism and challenge the West," Dr. Ghasib said.

In the meantime, most analysts agree, the overthrow of Mr. Gorbachev will cause a shakeup in the so-called new international order, raising questions about the West and particularly the U.S.' policies towards the Third World, particularly Palestinians and Iraq.

"This shakeup will be in our favour if it leads to a reassessment of the double standards that the West has adopted in dealing with the problems of the region and the Third World, including lifting the embargo against Iraq," Mr. Abu Layla said.

'Flagrant Interference' Noted

JN2108075191 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Aug 91 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "A Rabid Western Campaign Against the USSR"]

[Text] The statement made by His Majesty King Husayn on the Soviet developments has sincerely reflected the feelings of Arabs in general and Jordanians in particular

toward what is taking place in a large, friendly country. We have always wished domestic stability for the Soviet Union to enable it to overcome its internal difficulties as a prelude to regaining its previous role as an influential superpower on the international scene.

While observing the major developments in Moscow during the past two days, we have come to the conclusion that the change that affected the top echelons of the Soviet authority has been the result of a complex domestic situation, relating in part to social and economic issues and to the future unity of the Soviet state.

We regard all these developments, therefore, as a domestic Soviet affair that does not warrant this Western campaign, the series of economic sanctions, or this blatant incitement of internal elements to rebellion and disobedience; that is, unless the Western alliance countries allow themselves to interfere in the domestic affairs of other countries—something that contravenes the principles of international law and international relations.

Although the new Soviet leaders have repeatedly said that they will honor all international commitments and asserted their concern to pursue reforms, the Western alliance leaders have opened fire with a rabid media campaign, accompanied by a series of announcements that signal a determination to besiege the Soviet Union and continue to meddle in its internal affairs. Consequently, this could speed up a return to the Cold War and might produce more dangerous results.

While adhering to the Jordanian view that what is taking place in the Soviet Union is an internal matter in terms of its motives and an international affair in terms of its effects, we express our objection to the fierce Western campaign of denunciation against the new Soviet leadership. This campaign represents flagrant interference in an internal matter that concerns the Soviets alone and affects the future of their country, given that the West has tried in the past to weaken the Soviet Union and marginalize its international role to the largest degree possible.

Impact on Peace Talks Noted

JN2108062191 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Aug 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Peace Engine Must Run"]

[Text] Uppermost on the minds of the peoples and governments of the Middle East countries is the fate of the ongoing peace process to resolve the long-standing Arab-Israeli conflict in the wake of the coup that overthrew Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev Monday. Given the fact that the conference on this conflict is projected to start in October under the auspices of Washington and Moscow, there is every fear that the U.S. may not be in a mood to co-chair the parley with Moscow if the hardline communist forces that toppled Gorbachev succeed in consolidating their grip on power. In fact U.S. President George Bush has already raised such a possibility when he threatened not to cooperate henceforth with the new leadership in Moscow, having described Monday's seizure of power as unconstitutional. In other words, the U.S. administration could be viewing the new collective leadership in the USSR virtually as "outlaws" with whom Washington could not do serious business.

Thus the first casualty of the dramatic developments in the Soviet capital could very well be the joint sponsorship by the U.S. and the USSR of the peace conference. But does this necessarily mean that another form of the planned parley cannot be held under a different umbrella? It would be a sad development indeed if the existing momentum for peace negotiations will be frustrated, especially after the international community has succeeded in arm-twisting Israel into accepting to participate in the projected talks even though Tel Aviv's conditions for doing so are still unacceptable to the Arab side, particularly the PLO.

It must be borne in mind that the Israeli government under the leadership of the Likud Bloc, never wanted to be party to any meaningful peace conference and has done every conceivable thing to sabotage the international consensus on the need to hold such a conference. The Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, might be the first to sigh with relief at the diminishing prospects of ever holding peace talks. By the same token, the Arab side including the Palestinians may not rejoice at the ominous prospects of derailing the anticipated peace negotiations. That is why every effort must be exerted to separate the power change in Moscow from the global solemn decision to hold the peace parley as planned. To paraphrase PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's recent caution against not conducting peace negotiations, aborting such talks would necessrily lead to further Judaisation of Arab territories. Besides, the new-old leadership in Moscow may want to insist on improved conditions for convening peace talks on the Arab-Israeli dispute, something that the Arab side would welcome. Afterall, Moscow has consistently called for the full implementation of the U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and there is every reason to believe that Moscow would once again reiterate that position perhaps this time more forcefully than before. All in all, therefore, the decision to hold peace talks this coming October must continue to be binding even though the turmoil in the Soviet Union may cast a heavy shadow on East-West cooperation.

Minister on Palestinian Representation at Talks

JN2008153591 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Aug 91 p 22

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—Jordan affirmed its commitment to the legitimate international principles on the need for an Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and the Palestinian people's right to their territory.

In a meeting with a number of journalists yesterday, Information Minister Dr. Khalid al-Karaki said that Jordan affirms the need for Palestinian representation at a peace conference and that the question of the Palestinian delegation's membership is a Palestinian decision.

He added that Jordan adheres to the principles of international legitimacy regarding Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 on the Palestine question.

He said that these firm stands proceed from the principle of Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination in their homeland.

He explained that Jordan demanded assurances regarding the peace march within the framework of Jordanian action. These assurances deal with the concepts of land for peace, nonannexation of Jerusalem, and Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

He said Jordan believes it is necessary for the Palestinians to be represented and that there be comprehensive coordination between Jordan and the PLO on this subject.

Parliamentary Debate on Amnesty Bill Postponed

NC2008172191 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] The joint parliamentary committee met today for three hours and decided to postpone the debate of the general amnesty bill until a meeting at 1000 on 22 August. This was officially stated after the meeting.

The opinions of the 42 deputies attending the meeting diverged in three directions. Some called for amending the bill, some called for its postponement, and a third group called for separating it from the issue of General Michel 'Awn. The attending deputies also called for a larger number of deputies to take part in the debate.

'Prominent' Shiite Cited on Fate of Israelis

NC2008164791 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] On the hostage issue, REUTER has cited a prominent Shiite leader who declined to be identified as saying that Iran's decision to use its influence to end the nightmare of Western hostages being held in Lebanon is irrevocable. The Shiite leader added that the efforts to collect the requested information are continuing, although these efforts have met some obstacles.

The Shiite leader said: We are having difficulty finding the Israeli pilot, but the fate of the other six [Israeli servicemen] does not pose any problem.

Iranian Charge Comments on Hostage Issue

NC2008134391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] Mohammad Javad Zamanian, charge d'affaires of the Iranian Embassy in Beirut, today visited Sidon and met with Minister Nazih al-Bizri; Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization; and Shaykh Mahir Hammud, member of the Muslim Ulema Grouping. Zamanian invited Sa'd to participate in the Palestine conference which will be held in Tehran in two months. Zamanian expressed hope that the hostages file will be closed as soon as possible and that all the hostages—whether Lebanese, Palestinian, Western, or Iranian—will be released. He also expressed hope that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's efforts on this issue will succeed.

Karami's 'Health' Postpones Cabinet Consultations

NC2008165191 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] The cabinet consultations scheduled for 1600 today have been postponed until tomorrow afternoon, due to the ill health of Prime Minister 'Umar Karami.

Appointments Postponed Again

NC2108093091 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 21 Aug 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has canceled all his appointments today due to his ill health. The cabinet session slated to take place this afternoon has been postponed for the same reason.

Karami on Arms Collection, Democracy, Aid

NC1808101491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has said that the country has made good progress toward the common goal. In a speech he delivered at a banquet hosted by the al-Turuq al-Hadithah Company in al-Na'urah, Karami said: We realize that a large quantity of weapons still remains in the hands of the people and the militias, but the Lebanese Army is stronger today than all these groups combined. We are confident, therefore, that the day will soon come when Lebanon will be free from these weapons.

Karami added: We are making plans to restore democracy in the country. We believe it is a disgrace to democracy to have a parliament which has had its terms extended and its members appointed. Therefore, we have said that the state will do all it can to pave the way for parliamentary and municipal elections. This country cannot survive without democracy and freedom.

Regarding the issue of services and the infrastructure, Karami said: All the money being spent by the treasury to improve services can do nothing more than patch up the pieces, because we need more than $15 billion to rebuild the country's infrastructure. He noted that the Arab tripartite committee will meet in September to launch the Arab and international fund for Lebanon's reconstruction. He said: If assistance does not come from abroad, we must depend on ourselves to begin this process on the basis of our priorities.

Jazzin Claims Destruction of SLA Post

NC2008134791 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] In a statement issued today, the Jazzin Resistance said one of its groups blew up the listening and communications post of the agent militia [South Lebanese Army] in Hajal al-Muzannar in Jazzin, destroying it. The statement added that three agent militiamen were wounded in a clash last night between an agent militia's patrol and resistance personnel.

Meanwhile, the areas of Wadi al-Hujayr and the al-Litani River came under 155-mm artillery shelling from the enemy's positions in 'Alman and al-Shufayniyah. The Kafr Tibnit area also came under fire from snipers.

In another development, enemy helicopters flew over Arnun, Yuhmur, and Bra'shit last night, dropping flares.

Militia Leader Halts All Military Activity

NC1908123491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization, has relieved members of the Popular Liberation Army-Martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd Forces of all military tasks. He decided to freeze all military activity by the Popular Liberation Army in anticipation of its members' assimiliation into the Lebanese Army and the internal security forces.

Armenian Delegation Meets al-Husayni, Buwayz

NC1608121391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] A Soviet Armenian parliamentary delegation met today with Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. Speaking after the meeting with Buwayz, the head of the delegation said that the visit is intended to underscore the long-standing relations between the Armenian and Lebanese peoples. He expressed the hope that some of those who have left Lebanon will return to help rebuild their country.

Israel Accused of Exploiting Soviet Events

JN2008173491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Although Arab contacts and consultations on the peace efforts in the region have not ceased, especially between Syria and Egypt, upgrading the level of consultations and increasing coordination are needed so that the Arabs can face Israel's prevarications and intransigence with a unified front of pressure. All Arab and foreign observers, who are acquainted with the details of Israel's policy, are aware that the Shamir government is not concerned with peace and that it is doing its best to sabotage the international conference, called by the United States and the Soviet Union next October, by making aggressive statements, setting conditions for Palestinian representation, and declaring large-scale settlement activities in the occupied Arab territories. Shamir's government did not hesitate to exploit the new developments in the Soviet Union in order to push things away from the international conference and regional peace.

King Husayn's visit to Syria and his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad have been part of the framework of Arab coordination. These talks concentrated on the peace efforts, the proposed peace conference, and ways to ensure its success. Attaining a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East is a major challenge for the Arabs and the international community due to Israel's aggressive nature and expansionist policies. Israel will not voluntarily make one step toward peace. Faced with Israel's rejectionist and intransigent positions, the international community will find itself forced to put strong pressures on Israel and forcibly drag it to the peace conference. Although this is mainly the international community's responsibility, the Arabs should assume a major role by confronting Israel with a unified and cohesive stance, by not relinquishing any Palestinian or Arab rights, and by continuing to pressure the world into showing the necessary firmness against Israel's prevarications and attempts to evade the requirements of peace, topped by a withdrawal from the occupied territories and recognition of the Palestinian people's rights to freedom and self-determination.

It is well known that Israel is seeking separate negotiations that result in separate deals, something that conflicts with the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace and the Security Council resolutions, which call for total withdrawal. Hence, it is demanded that every Arab side speak for all Arabs and defend all Arab rights. The occupied territories constitute a holy union, and Syria has repeatedly asserted that Jerusalem comes before the Golan, that it will not bargain over an inch of the Arab territory, and that it is concerned with the Palestine question before anything else, as this question is the core of the Arab-Zionist conflict. When the enemy's government realizes that the question of Jerusalem, for example, is the question of all participating delegations and of all Arabs, it will find that its opposition to the participation of Jerusalem inhabitants in the negotiations is null and void and is entirely futile from the practical point of view.

When Israel finds itself face to face with a firm Arab insistence to restore all the occupied territories, it will be forced to decisively reveal its position: Either accept peace with all its requisites, or risk confrontation with the world and the international community, realizing that objective naturally requires a unified Arab position which Israel can neither penetrate nor undermine. The Arabs must upgrade their pan-Arab efforts so that the proposed international peace conference will be transformed into a conference for wrenching Arab rights and restoring the occupied territories, and into a conference which will try Israel and expose its intentions and expansionist and aggressive schemes.

The Arabs support and will continue to support any effort that aims to establish a just and comprehensive peace, but they will never bargain over their basic rights and their occupied territories. There will be no peace with occupation and aggression.

Papers Note Israeli Reaction to Soviet Events

JN2108073091 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 21 Aug 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In a commentary entitled "The Extortion Game," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: As usual, Israel does not hesitate to stick its nose in any event, even if it occurs in the furthest corner of the earth, or to take advantage of it to serve its interests and its expansionist and aggressive desires. Israel now sees in the internal Soviet affair a golden opportunity and a ray of light to infiltrate, escape, and break the wall of international isolation imposed on it, as well as to continue to evade peace and cripple all efforts leading to its achievement.

AL-THAWRAH adds: He who studies Tel Aviv's hasty and immediate reaction to the developments in the Soviet Union will very easily realize Israel's real intentions—both declared and hidden—toward peace and the proposed peace conference. Israel continues to deliberately fabricate problems and place obstacles in the path of that conference. It also does its best to obstruct, and turn it—if convened—into a conference incapable of achieving any progress to restore stability and security to this region and achieve a strong, just, and comprehensive peace that is based on implementing the international legitimacy's resolutions and UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and accepting the exchange of land for peace.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: In light of this, and of the facts confirmed by Israel's daily practices on the ground—the increasing incidents of daily murder,

terrorism, and oppression; the adherence to occupation; the intensification of settlement activities; and the mass expulsion of people from their Arab lands—peace seems a very difficult and impossible thing to achieve, and the region seems closer to an impasse unless the international community hastens to close all doors of maneuver and extortion in Israel's face and forces it to abide by and implement without delay the UN resolutions and submit to the conditions of peace.

Under the headline "Shamir And Jewish Emigration," TISHRIN says: The Israeli Government has expressed fear that the Soviet developments will adversely affect the intensive Jewish emigration. We do not want to predict the decisions that the Soviet leadership may take in the future. However, we would like to refer to the threats posed by Jewish emigration, not only on peace and security in the Middle East, but also on Jews themselves.

TISHRIN adds: Soviet Jews are being uprooted from their original societies and countries to be driven into the trap of Zionism, which has massed all resources to dehumanize them, brainwash them, and turn them from human beings into tools to kill Palestinians, expel them from their homes, and confiscate their lands. Jewish emigration takes one route only, to occupied Palestine. Jews wishing to emigrate to Europe and the United States find all doors closed in their face and they are given absolutely no help. Help is given only to those who submit to the Jewish agency and go to Israel. The Soviet Jew must wonder why he is being pushed into an unjust war against the Palestinian people. Why is he taken to the West Bank, Gaza, Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights and asked to build settlements in a land that has no connection whatsoever to his history and the history of his forefathers? Why do the Israeli authorities hasten to inject him with hatred against the Arabs and give him the rifle to murder children, women, and old men? Where is the humanity of that immigrant, and has he left his original country to be turned into a mere tool to murder, and plunder the Arabs' wealth and resources?

TISHRIN concludes by saying: Putting an end to Jewish emigration would not only serve peace and security in the Middle East and the world, but would also serve the Jews themselves, who are being pushed, involuntarily, into settlement and expansionist wars that kill their humanity and return mankind to the law of jungle, where the strong eats the weak without regard for the principles of right and justice.

Paper Sees Need for World To Pressure Israel

JN2108055191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 21 Aug 91

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The U.S. Administration and other countries in the world have called for reaching a formula to end the current conflict in the region, and numerous major efforts have been made to realize that goal. Just a reminder—all those who contributed to those efforts have stressed that, for the presumed peace process to succeed, it must have certain basic conditions, particularly the need for Israel to acknowledge that its troops would withdraw from the occupied territories. Because Israel's official policy makes such a decision inconceivable, we wonder: What is the reason for all these international efforts? This question leads us to another, why do the international efforts not concentrate on pressing Israel into acknowledging the need to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and recognize the Palestinian Arab people's rights in accordance with international resolutions? We believe that such a course will save much time and effort for those who are intensifying their efforts to find a just and comprehensive solution in the region.

Senegalese President Sends Message to al-Asad

JN1808125391 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received (Alamin Yas), private adviser of the Senegalese president, at 1330 today. The guest handed Mr. Khaddam a message for President Hafiz al-Asad from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf.

Afghanistan

Government 'Carefully Following' USSR Events

LD2008180291 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] The press office of the premier reported to BAKHTAR: The Council of Ministers held an extraordinary session in the headquarters of the premier to consider recent developments in the Soviet Union. The meeting was presided over by esteemed Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The esteemed prime minister told the high session of ministers that the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan is carefully following developments in view of our country's location bordering the Soviet Union, and its political and economic relations with that country. It wants normalization of the situation in that neighboring country. Esteemed Khaliqyar also said that the esteemed members of the Council of Ministers, recognizing their national duty and responsibility, shall fulfill their active and responsible efforts in an atmosphere of unity of views and deeds.

The esteemed prime minister reassured the high session of ministers that in the light of the historic speech of esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, on the occasion of the 72d anniversary of the independence of the country, the government will vigorously strive to accelerate the process of supplying the primary goods of the people's necessity and to make better use of possibilities in this respect.

Najibollah Interviewed on Developments in USSR

LD2008174391 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1530 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Interview with President Najibollah by unidentified reporter; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Esteemed President Najibollah, could you please [word indistinct] on recent developments in the Soviet Union?

[Najibollah] Recent changes in the Soviet Union are a completely internal issue for that country. The Republic of Afghanistan is carefully following the developments; it hopes the people of the Soviet Union can overcome problems at this critical juncture. So far as the Republic of Afghanistan is concerned, [words indistinct] friendly relations between the two countries and wants the normalization of the situation in its neighboring country. The Republic of Afghanistan hopes that the Soviet Union, as a friend and one of the guarantors of the Geneva agreements, will fulfil its role in the peaceful and political solution of the Afghan problem. The Republic of Afghanistan, emphasizing national reconciliation and with renewed commitment to its proposals and plans on the political solution of the problem of Afghanistan and the undeviated continuation of the aforementioned policy, which complies with the interests of the people of Afghanistan, will also use in the future all such possibilities.

[Reporter] Esteemed President, thank you very much for expressing your view.

Rival Rebel Factions Clashing in Konarha Province

BK2008145991 Hong Kong AFP in English 1438 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] Peshwar, Pakistan, Aug 20 (AFP)—Scores of people have been killed and wounded in clashes between two rival Afghan rebel factions in northeastern Konarha Province, reports reaching Pakistan said Tuesday.

The fighting, involving the Hezb-e Eslami faction of Golboddin Hekmatyar and the Salafi group of Mawlawi Jamilur Rehman [name as received], both fundamentalists, has been raging for five days, the reports said.

The Saudi-backed Salafi faction controls Konarha, bordering Pakistan's tribal area of Bajaur. Witnesses in Bajaur told local authorities the combatants were using heavy arms and rockets.

The Salafis cracked down on Hekmatyar's group in Konarha about two months ago, intensifying the rivalry between the two groups.

The reports said that the Hezb-e Eslami were fighting to re-establish their presence in the province and that the clashes were heaviest in the areas of Shegal [as received] and Nur Gol.

Presidential Decree on Armed Forces Promotions

LD1808163391 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 18 Aug 91

["Decree by Esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, on the commending of Armed Forces members"]

[Text] The following points are given assent regarding the commending of Armed Forces members for meritorious service in defense of national sovereignty and territorial integrity and safeguarding the country's independence, and on the occasion of the 72d anniversary of the country's independence:

1. Officers up to and including colonels, who have completed the fixed period of service for the rank, shall be promoted to higher rank regardless of lack of vacancy, provided they have taken part in combat operations and have obtained good terms of reference.

2. Those senior sergeants and police senior sergeants who have served as commissioned officers and have completed term of service at present rank, have taken part in combat operations, and obtained good terms of reference, shall be promoted—preserving present rights and obligations—to the rank of third lieutenant, pending their salary adjustment.

3. Those lieutenant colonels who have served for three years or more in combat units of the Armed Forces shall be granted 30 percent of differential of a general's salary, provided they have obtained good terms of reference; and lieutenenat colonels who have served in noncombatant or backup units for the above mentioned period shall be granted 15 percent of differential of a general's salary.

Decree Pardoning Armed Forces Deserters Extended

LD1708220191 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] The Presidency's press office reports to BIA that a decree of esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, on the extending of decree No. 1540 dated 24 Jadi 1369 [14 January 1991] has been issued with the following text:

On the extending of decree No. 1540 dated 24 Jadi 1369. On the occasion of the 72d anniversary of the country's independence, the national day of the country; in light of the national reconciliation policy and in continuation of the philanthropic measures of the Republic of Afghanistan; and in order to better facilitate the return of those members of the Armed Forces who have deserted their duties for some reason, the following points are given assent:

Article 1. Decree No. 1540 dated 24 Jadi 1369 on pardoning punishment on the occasion of fourth anniversary of the national reconciliation policy—which had been extended by decree 70 dated 12 Hamal 1370 [1 April 1991] until 28 Asad 1370 [19 August 1991]—shall extend, as from expiry date, until 30 Aqrab 1370 [21 November 1991].

Article 2. This decree shall be sent to the Republic of Afghanistan's Ministry of Justice to be published in the official gazette.

[Signed] Najibollah, president of Afghanistan.

India

CPI-M—Gorbachev Ouster 'Positive Development'

BK2008125291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has described the replacement of Mr. Gorbachev as a positive development. Talking to newspersons in New Delhi today, the politburo member, Mr. Harkishen Singh Surjeet, said that the change was not unexpected.

Envoy to Romania Shot, Seriously Wounded

BK2108035291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 21 Aug 91

[Text] India's ambassador to Romania Mr. Julio Francis Ribeiro was shot at and seriously wounded in Bucharest last evening. Agency reports quoting the Indian Embassy sources said the ambassador was hit in the leg and is safe. He has been admitted to a local hospital. The incident occurred when four miscreants got out of a car and opened fire on Mr. Ribeiro who was walking with his wife in a residential area. The antiterrorist police swung into action immediately and killed one of the assailants. The second assailant was wounded and the third arrested. The fourth managed to escape.

Death of Rajiv Gandhi Murder Suspects Confirmed

BK2008130691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] The Bangalore City police commissioner, Mr. R. Ramalingam, confirmed the death of Sivarasan and Subha, the prime suspects in the Rajiv Gandhi's assassination case. Addressing a news conference in Bangalore today, Mr. Ramalingam said six of the seven bodies recovered on the outskirts of Bangalore this morning have been identified. They belong to Sivarasan, Amman, Suresh Master, Gokul alias Nehru, Rangan, and Subha. Mr. Ramalingam said that though all of them have evidently died of consuming cyanide capsules, the body of Sivarasan had a bullet injury on the right temple.

Militants Release Oil Executive Doraiswamy

BK2108012691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 21 Aug 91

[Text] Mr. K. Doraiswamy, the kidnapped executive director of the Indian Oil Corporation, has been released. According to an official spokesman, he was set free by his captors, the Ikhwanul-Muslemin, near Anantnag in the Kashmir Valley last night. The spokesman said five militants were set free in exchange. Mr. Doraiswamy is in good health. He was abducted on 28 June in Srinagar. The spokesman, however, said Javed Ahmed Shala, the prime accused in last year's killing of Kashmir University vice chancellor Professor Mushirul Haq and others, will be released later on bail.

Violence Continues in Punjab, Several Killed

7 Militants Dead, 6 Arrested

BK2008062091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] In Punjab, seven militants and two robbers are among 11 persons killed and six militants have been arrested in separate incidents since last evening. According to an official spokesman, four militants were killed in (Kudkapura) area of Faridkot District and three in Tarn Taran area of Amritsar District in separate encounters with the security forces. In Ludhiana City, two robbers were killed in an encounter with the police early this morning. Six militants have been arrested by the security forces during raids in Jullundur and Amritsar Districts.

3 'Militants' Killed 21 Aug

BK2108092291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 21 Aug 91

[Text] In Punjab, three militants are among six persons killed in separate incidents. According to an official spokesman, two militants were killed in an encounter in Amritsar District and another was shot dead by rival gang in Ludhiana District. Elsewhere, an unidentified gunman shot dead a Sarpanch [village council chief] and his daughter in Sangrur District.

Iran

Velayati: Soviet Coup 'Internal Affair'

LD2108103191 Tehran IRNA in English 0829 GMT 21 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 21, IRNA—"The recent developments in the Soviet Union is an internal issue of that country and Iran does not intend to interfere in the internal affairs of the Soviet Union. We respect whatever decision the Soviets make," Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said.

Velayati made the remark in an interview with the morning daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, published in the daily's Wednesday issue.

He stressed that the strategic relations of the Soviet Union with Iran "enjoys a favourable trend and that the recent developments were not expected to bring any change in Tehran-Moscow relations."

Asked whether the Iraqi move in welcoming the dismissal from power of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev last Monday would mean rearmament of Baghdad by Moscow, Velayati told the paper that a variety of factors were involved in extensive arming of the Iraqi regime and persuading it to attack Iran.

"It is highly unlikely that all these factors would reemerge to pave the way for Iraq's rearmament. Moreover, no country would supply Baghdad with arms free of charge," the foreign minister said.

On impacts of the Soviet developments on the U.S.-brokered Middle East peace conference, Velayati said that the developments "may disturb its trend."

He continued, "In the light of the developments in the Soviet Union, it is not clear whether the Soviets will move in the same direction as before," the minister noted. [sentence as received]

On the impact of the developments on exodus of the Soviet Jews to the occupied Palestine, Velayati said that since Gorbachev was the main engineer of the plan, it is premature to make any comment in this respect.

"We should wait and see the stands adopted by the new government. However, we hope that the exodus will be halted. We have been opposing the move and have repeatedly announced our opposition to the Soviets and others," said Velayati.

He ruled out the possibility of any direct impact of the developments on Afghanistan issue and said Gorbachev's removal from power will likely overshadow East-West relations and their convergence, as well as progress of the U.S.-engineered "new world order".

"However", the foreign minister noted, "what happened was not totally unexpected. But, reemergence of the former structure in the Eastern bloc and the traditional ties between the Soviet Union and the East European countries is not possible."

"In my opinion, some relations cannot be restored and perhaps the new people (the new government) have no motive to return to the previous status. From a certain perspective the former eastern bloc was a heavy burden on the Soviet economy," Velayati said.

As for Gorbachev's inclinations towards the West and his reforms, the foreign minister noted, "It is hard to say that Mr. Gorbachev was tilted towards the United States or the West."

Perhaps Gorbachev thought that in launching his reforms in the Soviet Union, such inclinations were needed, he said adding that an inevitable outcome of his policies would be improvement of relations with the West.

"It is unlikely that Mr. Gorbachev intended to transfer the Soviet Union into an American region of influence," the foreign minister said.

Impact of Soviet Changes on Mideast Viewed

LD2008184291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1002 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings, dear listeners and good afternoon. Developments in the Soviet Union and changes in that country's leadership met with various reactions and had various consequences in the Middle East, especially because the changes occurred about a month before the date set for the holding of a Middle East peace conference. Many in the region's political circles believe that the peace conference will be the most important issue to be affected by a possible change in the Soviet Union's foreign policy, because the holding of the conference is considered to be a consequence of full cooperation and coordination between the Soviet Union and the United States, and now everyone is waiting to see if the Soviet Union's new leaders will bring about changes in foreign policy in line with the changes in domestic policy. [passage omitted]

A responsible Egyptian source said yesterday that the message from Gennadiy Yanayev, the current Soviet leader, to the Egyptian president about respect for the international commitments of the Soviet Union was seen as positive and satisfactory for the region. Nevertheless, Yanayev's message to world leaders and the United Nations has not put an end to the anxieties of some governments and groups in the region; while others have, regardless, expressed pleasure about the change of power in the Soviet Union.

The PLO expressed the hope that developments in the Soviet Union will lead to an end to the flood of Soviet Jews going to occupied Palestine, and some Palestinian circles welcomed the removal of Gorbachev saying: The Palestinian people suffered a great deal as a result of the Soviet Union's move away from its role as a superpower and the fall of Gorbachev will prevent the imposition of the new United States world order.

On the other hand, the Iraqi Government announced that it suffered because of the previous Soviet regime's policies, and it is natural that it should be pleased about the change in leadership in that country. Finally, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has spoken of Gorbachev's removal as a brave and historic act. Some of the region's analysts have gone so far as to say that the Soviet stance during the Persian Gulf war and the consequences of the war were important factors behind Gorbachev's removal.

At any rate, there is no doubt that developments in the Soviet Union will bring about profound upheavals in the Middle East. The peace conference, the emigration of Soviet Jews, the strengthening of former Soviet allies, and the disappearance of the unity between the Security Council's permanent members over the Palestinian crisis and the Persian Gulf crisis will be among the first areas to be affected by the changes in the Soviet Union. At the same time, it should be borne in mind that the past few years developments in the framework of Soviet-Middle East relations have been so profound that even if this new Soviet leadership wants to do so, it is highly likely that it will not be able to change them very much.

Tehran Views Prospects for New Soviet Regime

LD2008213891 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1711 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Following the removal of Mikhail Gorbachev from the post of president of the Soviet Union and the transfer of power to the State of Emergency Committee, it seems that that country is on the verge of other significant developments which may possibly affect the trend of world events.

The members of the State of Emergency Committee, who are known figures on Soviet political scene, are mostly affiliated with the faction which is regarded as conservative by political observers. In today's Soviet political situation the term conservative is applied to members of the faction which, throughout the six years or so of Gorbachev's reign, consistently stressed the traditional values of Communism and the prevention of the domination of capitalism and Western democracy over the country.

The removal of Gorbachev from the presidency has taken place at a sensitive juncture. By announcing perestroyka, or economic and political reconstruction, during his reign and by implementing glasnost—or political openness—Gorbachev created a major impact on the Soviet political system where domestic and international issues were concerned. [passage omitted]

Experts in Soviet affairs believe that the perestroyka program was not very successful or effective inside the Soviet Union. Although, with the West's assistance, Gorbachev made every effort to overcome the Soviet Union's internal problems and crises, the outcome of these efforts was not very successful and the economic crisis, coupled with severe food shortages' plummeting standards of living, and the fall in the national revenue of the Soviet Union, became more acute everyday. At the same time, the glasnost policy started by Gorbachev contributed to the evolution of tribal and national tendencies, increased demands for liberation, and the general disruption of affairs. [passage omitted]

Although Gorbachev's removal from the presidency was sudden it should be noted that many politicians and political observers repeatedly warned of it. [passage omitted]

On the reason for the transfer of power in Moscow, some analysts believe that the chief factor behind Gorbachev's removal was the anxiety of the conservative faction in the party and government about the trend of events. [passage omitted]

Although Yanayev supported Gorbachev's reforms, he is recognized as a conservative politician. His initial comments testify to the fact that to some extent he favors the continuation of the reforms. Nevertheless, he may possibly remain in power for a transitional period. It should be noted that the presence of reformist forces and those opposing conservative communists in the political arena would remain a significant factor in future developments. The West's posture concerning Soviet developments is also a determining factor that should not be overlooked.

Since communism, as an ideology and the essence of the legitimacy of a political system, has almost lost its credibility, if the new Kremlin rulers remain in power they will need a new base for political legitimacy. It seems that this new base is nationalism. Furthermore, that assumption leads one to the conclusion that extremist conservatives, whose chances of coming into power are small, would leave power to more moderate conservatives. In that case, the possibility exists that the reforms will continue in a controlled manner. In that case, however, there would be no sign of perestroyka.

Ambassador Conveys Messages From Soviet Leaders

LD2108123991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 Aug 91

[Text] In a meeting with Velayati this morning, the Soviet ambassador conveyed a message from acting Soviet President Gennadiy Yanayev for President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In his messgae, Mr. Yanayev describes the latest developments in his country, and has stresses the continuation of the USSR's reform policies.

The message goes on to say: The new emergency conditions will not in any way undermine the Soviet Union's international commitments and this country will never violate existing agreements and accords.

During the meeting, the Soviet ambassador also conveyed a messgae from Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, which was addressed to Mr. Velayati.

Mr. Velayati stressed the importance of the developments in the Soviet Union, and he expressed hope that the developments will not harm the Soviet people in any way. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran will seriously and regularly pursue recent Soviet developments.

Khamene'i Addresses Former Prisoners of War

LD2008003191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, to a gathering of former prisoners of war in Tehran on 19 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Look at what has happened in the region since this time last year, when you began gradually to return to the country: the developments, the disturbances, the blazing fire lit in the Persian Gulf region, the innocent Iraqis who lost their lives or lost dear ones under the shower of fire and bullets either from the Western aggressors, America and so on, or from the bloodthirsty Ba'thists. Look at what the aggressor, shameless, and arrogant U.S. regime has done in the past year. Look at what the Iraqi people have endured. See what we have endured, the difficulties the region has endured.

The Ba'thists raised a hue and cry, sought power, and then, in the face of the attack by the forces of the camp of arrogance, they crawled back into their holes like mice. For the sake of preserving their own lives, positions, and power, they surrendered in the face of U.S. bullying, and took revenge on their nation instead.

The Iraqi nation suffered losses and the region suffered losses. Iraq was destroyed, and the Islamic countries confronted each other. But worst of all, and most alarming of all, was that the fact America gained a sense of power in the region, placing itself in the center, where it embarked upon brawling and muscle flexing. What was the cause of such losses? They were caused by lack of faith and religion, by the narcissism and conceit of a group that had taken charge of a nation's destiny. [passage omitted] To fulfill its expansionist ambitions, a narcisstic regime, alien to divine and humanitarian concepts, perpetrates an act for the consequences of which the people have to atone—not only the Iraqi nation, but also the nations of the region.

The second lesson to be learnt from that tragedy is the fact that our nation must understand and our youth and your conscious souls must be aware of the kinds of conspiracies hatched against the Islamic ummah. You should see their acts in respect of Palestine, today; their visions for the Palestinian nation and, in fact, for the region. This, also, to a great extent, emanates from these very events of the past year. Once America managed to consolidate its brawling power in the region, by virtue of tanks, canons, warships, bombings, and so on, it immediately moved on to the the main issue of the region; in other words, the Palestinian issue. It became greedy, thinking that now that it has the ability, now that the governments of the region—those with weak wills—consider themselve indebted and grateful to it, for having warded off the Iraqi regime for them, it is time for it to exploit the situation, thus fulfilling arrogance's desire of recent years. What is that desire? It is to sacrifice Palestinian aspiration before treacherous Zionists. That is what they are up to. That is what they want to do, and we hope that the zeal of the Islamic ummah, the Muslim ummah, Muslim and Palestinian youth will prevent them from realizing this great act of treachery.

That, too, is a lesson for us. See how arrogance is here with tooth and nail, with its blood thirstiness, and without the slightest humanity or compassion, in order to crush under foot, if it can, Muslim nations and their dreams for the sake of its own arrogant demands. [passage omitted]

Do they think that the brave Palestinian youths are dead? Do they think that the youths in Islamic countries bordering Palestine and other Islamic countries are dead? Is that why they think they can so easily solve the greatest problems of the world of Islam to their own advantage and to the detriment of the Islamic ummah? What is this silence that reigns in the world of Islam today?

Until a few years ago, no one in the world of Islam dared to speak of talking to the usurper Israeli government. One traitor dared and did so, and he got his just deserts: that treacherous Egyptian Taghut [an idol in Mecca; derogatory term used for supporters of the Shah]. Today, they are trying to turn the issue into a simple matter with the United States on one side saying: Come and sit with the Zionists, these thieves, these murderers, these people who have been torturing the Palestinian nation for 40 years, who have been poisoning, betraying, and stabbing the entire world of Islam in the back, from whom almost

all the problems of the world of Islam arise— come and sit and talk with them and sign, so that Jerusalem is yours, Palestine is yours, the Golan is yours.

What business is it of the United States? What right does the United States have to involve itself as a custodian in a matter which belongs to this nation, to the region; to enter as a proprieter, as a bully? What is it to you? You interfered and invaded and killed in the American continent. Is that not enough for you?

In this Middle East region, the hearts of every single wise and vigilant member of these nations is filled with hatred for you, and yet you still approach with claims of solving the Palestinian problem. Do you call this solving? Solving the Palestinian issue means that the usurper government should be broken up, destroyed, and that the owners of the country, the owners of the land should come and form a government with Muslims, Christians, Jews, and whoever is there living together. [crowd chants in support]

This is the plight of the Islamic world, and you young ones should be aware of it. No one should think that the world of Islam has become free of threat and danger, even though we have gone forward in our 12 years, gaining ascendencies over some regions of the political arena, and much has been done thanks to the guidance of our eminent imam, and the steadfastness of this nation. [passage omitted] Nevertheless, the threats have not ended. It should not be believed that the issue in our country today is that of the shortage or excess of such and such a commodity or facility; the issue is that of the principle of the revolution. It is the issue of the principle of the Islamic system, and the threat facing the principle of Islam. The issue today is the fact that it is only this nation [Iran] which has stood in the face of America's narcissistic and expansionist designs. It is only this nation which speaks, revealing the policies of the presumptuous and arrogant foes. They are against this nation. We cannot turn a blind eye to the tragedies of the Islamic world and we cannot remain silent in the face of the aggressions perpetrated by the enemies of Islam. This nation is the guard of Islam. [passage omitted]. The enemy is angered by this. They issue threats against us. As you can see, arrogance uses the slightest pretext to create a sensation around the world, against the Islamic Republic, the Iranian nation, and our accommodating government, by means of its propoganda agents. It does not let go of the pretext to create a sensation. They attempt to divide and disband this nation, thus undermining its unity. They attempt to divert the nation's attention from the pursuit of Islamic aspirations and values, toward the mundane issues of life. [passage omitted]

Our views in terms of the Palestinian issue are clear and lucid. We see the solution to the Palestinian problem in the destruction of the Israeli regime. [crowd chants] Let them not say: It cannot be done. There is no cannot in the world. Everything can be done. All the big mountains that can block the path of men can be removed. Forty years have passed; even if another 40 years go by, in the end the Israeli government can be destroyed; and it must be destroyed.

Only a little while ago, no one would have imagined that the eastern superpower could be destroyed in such a way. If two years ago someone had said: that the eastern superpower would be destroyed, people would have said philosophically: yes, well, you are simple. On the day that the imam [Khomeyni] wrote to this Gorbachev saying: Henceforth, Marxism will be found in the museums, some people started sniggering.

It did not take two years, three years and that event, that forecast was realized. It did not even take one year after the Imam passed away. Everything changed.

Who says things will not change? The arrogant power of the United States will also be eliminated; it will be destroyed too. This evil power will not remain, Israel will not remain. We must work hard, it is our duty to work hard; This is what the government of Iran, the people of Iran, and the Islamic republican system says. And this will happen. Muslim peoples must know this. This will happen through your alertness and the alertness of Muslim peoples.

You freed men specially, with the hardship that you have been through— thank God, you have come into the arms of the masses of this society; each one of you should shine like a star. You must be the symbol of devotion and dedication to the aspirations of Islam. You must insist on following the path of the revolution and the bright light of resistance against arrogance.

Islamic Nations Asked To Confront Israel

LD2008124991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has sent separate messages regarding the situation in Palestine to the presidents of Senegal, Gabon, and Niger. According to a central news unit report, in view of the developments in regard to the infringement of the rights of the oppressed Palestinian people, our country's president calls for the cooperation and earnest support of the Islamic and freedom-seeking countries of the world for the sacred Palestinian aspiration, and their decisive confrontation with the illegitimate existence of the Zionist regime.

Mr. Mo'ayari, presidential advisor on international affairs, who is carrying these messages, arrived in Dhakkar, the capital of Senegal, on the first leg of his visits to Senegal, Gabon, and Niger.

Majles Deputy Speaker Interviewed

NC1508105391 Tehran JAHAN-E ELSAM in Persian 4 Aug 91 p 7

[Report on an interview with Majles Deputy Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Asadollah Bayat in Salmas; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Referring to the imam's directives, messages, and policies as far as foreign policy and international diplomacy are concerned, the Majles deputy speaker said the views of his eminence the imam, may his soul be sanctified, should be fully considered in foreign policy. [passage omitted]

Pointing out that the esteemed leader has described the confrontation with America as a jihad on the path of God, he said: Some try to say that some of our principles can be changed now or claim that our principles and policies are correct and have not changed. But that what is being done is out of necessity. We think these people did not dare to make such statements in the past and have now found the opportunity to do so. Also, because of reconstruction and a series of problems stemming from the war, they now feel they can propound some issues. This is why such approaches should be confronted with quickly, so that they will not make us change or downplay some of our principles.

On the Majles' criticisms of the government and on the motives behind these criticisms, he said: Relations between the government and the Majles are like those between a son and father. This is because the government is the offspring of the Majles and because with its vote, the Majles grants its child authority. The Majles is like a father who watches his son's steps and how he grows.

The deputy speaker then clarified: Naturally, the Majles always watches over the money and the budget it places at the government's disposal and the policymaking that leads to the compilation of laws. It tries to grant the government executive powers that take the process of the revolutionary system into consideration and do not create problems or place people in deadlocked situations. Therefore, the very principle of Majles supervision and Majles criticism is a logical and correct process. The Majles has some views on the government's modus operandi. One is on economic issues and the country's economic programs. You know the Majles has approved a program called the Five-Year Plan, in which it has placed everything needed by the government at its disposal.

It has placed general policies on culture, commerce, imports and exports, the improvement of education and training, the ensuring of social justice, and other similar issues at the government's disposal and it has also placed both rial and foreign currency facilities at the government's disposal to implement these general policies. Therefore, the Majles should see how this policy is being implemented. Moreover, it also studies the country's annual emergency budget both in rials and in foreign currency, as well as the general course that the annual budget is taking. The reasons for this are:

1. To gradually diminish the budget deficit and to end government debts to banks;

2. To ensure that programs will elevate production in the country to a favorable level;

3. To ensure that the general policy is compiled in such a way that the deprived and low-income areas of the country and the low-income strata improve by the end of the Five-Year Plan.

One of the points that the Majles has to make is financial problems in general, and one of the points that the Majles has to make now is that inflation has not been harnessed and that prices are skyrocketing. Even though there is a positive trend, nevertheless the low-income people who form the larger portion of our society are under pressure. Pointing to the need to be careful when granting responsibilities to people, he stated: For example, as far as the Ministries of Health and Education are concerned, one of the points the Majles made was that these ministries did not given proper attention to granting responsibilities to people. Another issue concerns foreign policy. The Majles takes a serious view on the policy of abandoning principles and on the issue of establishing relations and the mode of relations. We do not say that we should be isolated. But this does not mean that we should hastily look for one country or another with which to establish relations. Therefore, the Majles has some points to make on granting of managerial posts in the economic program and on foreign policy.

On the Majles' position in the country's foreign policy and its legal powers over it, Hojjat ol-Eslam Bayat stated: The Majles is a strong institution, next in line after the esteemend leadership. It enjoys great powers over foreign policy and can act and take steps. An example of this is the banning of relations with America, and with Britain after the British Government supported Salman Rushdie. When the U.S. Congress granted vast authority to the U.S. President to confront anyone in the world who threatened American interests, the Majles also granted our president similar authority.

The Majles can encourage relations or prevent them. It can also create a balance in them. Therefore, legally speaking the Majles' hands are not tied in legislative matters. But we should accept the fact that after the demise of His Eminence the Imam, our foreign policy and our steadfast, decisive, and hostile stand on the West have become more moderate.

Some gentlemen today may want to show a kind face of the Islamic Republic instead of the past harsh face. The Majles—that is, the majority [as published] of the deputies—believe that our approach toward the West should be gentler and that we should establish relations with it. But the majority believe that the correct principles in foreign policy are the same propounded by the Imam and that we should grant priority to Islamic countries, the Third World, and the Nonaligned countries, and that we should establish relations with countries that do not impose anything upon us. The majority also believe America will not establish relations with us unless it wants to impose something upon us. [passage omitted]

The deputy speaker then described the joint meetings between the Majles and the cabinet as useful and said

such meetings are an opportunity for information and views to be exchanged face-to-face. He said: Such meetings have been held since Engineer Musavi's government. The main objectives behind them are for deputies to ask questions and for the ministers answer them frankly and amicably, for bottlenecks to be discussed, criticisms voiced by both sides, and for shortages to be studied and solutions found. He added: On the anniversary of the Majles' formation, we held a joint meeting with the cabinet which lasted almost two and a half hours. [passage omitted]

One of the issues that was discussed at this meeting was that the cabinet and the Majles should sit next to each other as friends and discuss the various dimensions of problems frankly—something which will clarify many ambiguities, dispel rumors and thus play a great role in pacifying society. One of the points made by the Majles was that the president's Friday sermons especially play a major role in either sparking off controversies or calming people. As far as controversies are concerned, one of the topics that was propounded was that such remarks should not be made at such gatherings and we reached an agreement on this. Some points also were made on the skyrocketing prices and it was decided that the Majles and the government should sit down together, take special conditions into consideration, and adopt decisions collectively.

Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Asadollah Bayat then referred to the return of Iranian individuals and investors from abroad, and stated: In the Five-Year Plan, the government has been granted permission to allow foreign companies to come and invest in the country and to import new technology. Naturally, the government says that if foreign companies can come to the country and invest, then why should the Iranians who are abroad not be able to do the same? Among these Iranians there are those who have many options and have expressed their wish to come to the country and invest. But they need guarantees. Hojjat ol-Eslam Bayat then pointed to the need to differentiate between the investors and experts who have expressed their wish to return, and clarified that he does not oppose the return of experts and university academicians who are not hostile to the revolution. He also divided investors into two categories and said: Those who left before the revolution and who have good relations with the Islamic revolution and our system can come and invest. But it is not right for us to give guarantees to those who left after the revolution, whose properties were confiscated, and who left the country because they did not support the revolution and invite them to come to the country again. I consider it improbable that these people will be invited to come. [passage omitted]

Noting a meeting between government representatives and a number of investors in America, Hojjat ol-Eslam Bayat stated: We will not oppose this meeting if it is aimed at granting guarantees to those who support the revolution and are not hostile toward it and want to come and invest. But if the invitation is extended to include counterrevolutionaries, the return of confiscated property, and those who played a major role in strengthening the monarchy, then we will seriously oppose it. It is not in the hands of the Finance Ministry to release the confiscated property. This is an issue that concerns our judicial branch. Of course, God forbid, if our judicial branch also adopts a reconciling and liberal approach, then we will be facing a calamity. But I hope that this situation will never arise.

Al-Qadhdhafi's Envoy Arrives on Visit

LD1408184191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Mr. Ibrahim al-Manqush, the special envoy of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, arrived in Tehran today. He is carrying a written message from the Libyan leader for President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He was welcomed at the airport by Mr. Mo'ayyeri, deputy president for international affairs.

Presents Invitation to Gala

LD1508105191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] This morning President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Mr Ibrahim Manqush, special envoy of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. At the meeting, also attended by Mr Mo'ayyeri, presidential adviser on international affairs, the Libyan leader's special envoy presented Col. al-Qadhdhafi's written message in which he has officially invited Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani to participate in the inaugural ceremony of the man-made river [nahr al-sana'i]. He then submitted a report to our country's president on the grand project which involves constructing a 2,000-km canal called the man-made river from the south of Libya to the north, as well as methods of discovering underground water resources.

Thanking Col. al-Qadhdhafi for his brotherly message and also for extending the invitation, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We hope that the man-made river project will be a source of blessing and well-being for our brother country Libya. This grand project shows the lofty determination and will of the officials and people of Libya. We share their expression of happiness and festivity.

In another part of his remarks he referred to the recent developments in the region as well as to the sinister plot which is being hatched against the people of Palestine and said: The world of Islam is going through very sensitive days; and this sensitivity requires the officials of the Islamic countries to maintain close contacts. I hope to have an exchange of views and a meeting with Mr. al-Qadhdhafi in this regard.

Khorasan, Turkmen Officials Meet on Ties 13 Aug

LD1408123591 Tehran IRNA in English 1009 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Mashhad (Khorasan), Aug. 14, IRNA—Economic, political and cultural relations between Iran and the Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic were discussed at the "Bajgiran" border point in this north-eastern province Tuesday. The Turkmen economic-political delegation was led by Mr. Aliyev while the Iranian side was headed by planning deputy at the Khorasan Governor General's Office Mohammadi-Zadeh. The two sides underlined exchange of visits between the Ferdowsi University at Mashhad and universities in the Turkmen Republic. They also reviewed transportation routes for cross-border trade exchanges and possible telephone links between Bajgiran and the Turkmen border town of Gavband. An air link between Ashkhabad and Tehran and the opening of the Sarakhs-Turkmenistan railway line was also studied. The two sides reached agreements on Khorasan's participation in Ashkhabad trade fair, as well as on common border markets, industrial contracts, and political and cultural issues. Iran is to hold an exclusive trade exhibition at Ashkhabad from September 14 onwards with the participation of Khorasan, Mazandaran, Gilan and Semnan Provinces.

Envoy Views Improved Ties With France

LD1408180491 Tehran IRNA in English 1553 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 14, IRNA—Following the various ups and downs in the relations between Tehran and Paris the two capitals resumed diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level in June 1988. The relations between Iran and France have since then been steadily improving.

The Persian daily KEYHAN on Wednesday printed the text of an exclusive interview with the Iranian Ambassador to Paris 'Ali 'Ahani. The following is excerpts from the interview.

On recent improvements in Tehran-Paris relations: "In the wake of exchange visits at various levels and especially by the foreign ministers of the two countries in a near future we will witness a visit to Tehran by the French President Francois Mitterrand which in itself is indication of significant developments in the relations between the two countries and on the other it is indication of the importance that France attaches to Iran."

On the quality and the possible balance of relations with France: "I think after the resumtption of ties with France in 1988 our relations have been sound and well balanced. If you look at the volume of trade exchanges between the two countries since then you will notice that the balance has been to 'our' favor, that is the French government has not been the sole profit-maker in the business. Our efforts have been aiming at casting healthy relations between the two countries."

On the assassination of former prime minister of Iran Shahpur Bakhtiar at his house in Paris last week and conjectures of Iran's involvement: "In a communique that we issued in Paris we firmly rejected any suggestion of Iran's implication in the incident. In my opinion the levelling of accusations against Iran, in light of the improvement in the relations between the two countries, have been by a group of people who are against this trend. They are a people who fear that the strengthening of our relations might entail certain restrictions (disadvantages) to them. In addition we cannot totally disregard the likelihood of the incident having been the product of in-fightings or indication of squaring of accounts within one single group. Obviously, the current investigation by the French police can cast light on the facts in that respect."

On President Mitterrand's scheduled visit to Tehran: "Mr Mitterrand is to visit Tehran at the invitation of (Iran's president) Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Two main topics during such visits are mutual relations between the two countries and exchange of opinion over regional and international issues. In light of the recent developments in Tehran-Paris relations the visit to Tehran by President Mitterrand will be a turning point in the relations between the two countries. It is expected that as a result of the visit we will witness bigger forwad strides in our relations as well as long-term cooperation between Tehran and Paris."

On Iran-France differences over an outstanding French debt to Iran: "The financial differences between Iran and France had long since developed into an old injury. Eventually the two sides to the dispute concluded that they would do better to solve their differences by talks. They, then launched out on fresh efforts towards the same objective and during the past few months the talks between the officials of the two countries reached good results. The draft of an ultimate agreement has now been prepared and I hope the two countries will sign the agreement (probably in September) and will thereby put an end to their dispute once and for all."

On economic and trade relations between Iran and France: "In 1990 the volume of trade exchanges between Iran and France was a little over $2 billion, up by 23.78 per cent as compared to the previous year or 4.7 times that in the year 1988. In 1990 we sold nine million tons of oil to France that was 12.2 per cent of the total needs of France for oil. In that year we were the top second exporter of oil to France. In the year 1988 we had exported only 60,000 tons of oil to that country.

"At the same time the two countries concluded various agreements for joint projects and more projects are now being discussed. Some of those projects relate to auto-manufacturing, while others relate to petrochemical engineering, energy generation, transport, etc."

On the likelihood of Iran's employment of French workforce in relation with Franco-Iran joint ventures and

reconstruction projects in Iran: "Obviously the implementation of technical and high-tech projects in various fields such as petrochemical engineering, oil, energy, and the installation of their related equipments would need the involvement of expatriate specialists. Even now there are some (expatriate workers) in Iran who are involved with various projects. Their presence in Iran is simply for the implementation of those projects, but as for the number of those expatriates I do not have a precise figure."

Economic Minister, Delegation Leaves for PRC

LD1408225191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Our country's minister of economic affairs and finance has left for Beijing at the head of a high-ranking economic and political delegation to participate in the sixth session of the joint economic commission with the People's Republic of China.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's economic delegation will stay in the PRC for five days. During that time, apart from participating in the sixth session of the joint commission, the delegation will also meet and confer with that country's high-ranking officials.

Officials View Implementing Khamene'i Guidelines

LD1508101191 Tehran IRNA in English 0925 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 15, IRNA—Government executives and representatives of the Judiciary Branch met here Thursday to agree on methods for improving executive policies and strategies as recommended by the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Khamene'i, here Wednesday.

In his meeting with a group of visiting Majles deputies here Wednesday Ayatollah Khamene'i stressed on the need for adopting more cost-effective strategies as well as economizing on budgetary expenditures, elimination of unnecessary expenditures, and for a commitment to directing goals towards the satisfaction of the deprived masses.

The executives of the public sector are expected to proceed with their debates on the topic next Saturday.

Nepal & Bhutan

Premier Praises Grobachev, Ties Not Affected

BK2108015091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1811 GMT 21 aug 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 20 (AFP)—New developments in the Soviet Union should not affect existing Nepalese-Soviet relations, Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala told parliament here Tuesday.

"As a government committed to human rights, we can only hope that the process of democratization and respect for human rights will not be obstructed" by the ouster of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Koirala said.

Describing the ouster as "a serious matter," Koirala said reforms initiated by Gorbachev "had earned appreciation among the nations of the world.

"They helped achieve international understanding, the reduction of nuclear weapons and made progress towards world peace," he added.

Pakistan

Bhutto Pays Tributes to Gorbachev's Leadership

BK2008090391 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 20 Aug 91 p 12

[Bureau Report]

[Text] Lahore, Aug. 19—Benazir Bhutto, leader of the Opposition and co-chairperson of the Pakistan People's Party has said in a statement the unexpected replacement of President Mikhail Gorbachev has removed from the world scene an extraordinary post-war Soviet leader, whose vision and sagacity were the catalyst in the restructured world. But for Mikhail Gorbachev there may have been no reunified Germany, no unleashing of democratic aspirations in Eastern Europe, no withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan and certainly no reform in the Soviet economy, she added.

Ms Bhutto said "we look to the future Soviet leadership to promote the just rights of the oppressed people of Kashmir and Palestine in their indigenous struggle for self-determination. We look forward to their continued support of the Third World's fight to overcome poverty and deprivation".

In this difficult period of Soviet history created by the emergency, our prayers are with the Soviet people, she added.

Gorbachev Hinted Involved in Ziaul Haq's Death

BK2008090591 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 20 Aug 91 p 4

[Text] Rawalpindi, Aug.19—Ejazul Haq, federal minister for Labour, Manpower sand Overseas Pakistanis, has said that all the elements behind the C-130 crash that killed his father, late President Ziaul Haq, were meeting their logical end and the government of one of the elements, Gorbachev, the USSR president was toppled Monday. He maintained that the rest of the people involved in the crash will also meet their end in due time. The chain had been set with the death of an Indian leader, the minister maintained.

He was addressing a book launching ceremony of the book Pakistan Ikkeesween Sadi Ki Janib [Pakistan

Toward the 21st century] by Dr. Muhammad Farooq Khan. The book, which is a futuristic study of the socioeconomic maladies of the country, dwelt at length with the problems facing the nation and country in the next century and calls for concerted efforts by intelligentsia, the politicans and the people of the country to prepare the nation face the challenges of the future.

Federal Cabinet Decides Date for Local Elections

BK1908142391 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] The Federal Cabinet meeting in Islamabad today decided that local bodies elections would be held on 20th of November this year throughout the country on non-party basis. The meeting chaired by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif empowered the provincial governments to dissolve the existing local bodies institutions as and when they deem it fit. Addressing newsmen on the decision of the cabinet meeting, the adviser on information and broadcasting, Sheikh Rashid Ahmad, said the cabinet also decided that there would be no dual membership of elected institutions.

The cabinet also considered the pay committee's recommendations for employment in basic pay-scales—16 to 22—and approved the revised pay-scales and allowances to be effective from the 1st of June this year. Corresponding revisions have also been made in the pay and allowances of defense personnel. The benefits (?allowed) since 1st of July 1988 have to be absorbed in the new scale.

Tribal Chief Asks for Kabul's Help

BK1908133191 Lahore THE NATION (Islamabad THE NATION Supplement) in English 19 Aug 91 p 4

[By Omar Amer]

[Text] Peshawar—Malik Abdur Rehman, chief of the armed tribesmen of Mohamand Agency which is still resisting to surrender, has said that he was negotiating with the Kabul Government for help.

In a statement issued by Mali Abdar Rehman, who is the brother of Senator Abdul Wahed Khan, here on Sunday, said that if his tribe decided to open negotiation with the political authorities he would accept it.

He contradicted the allegations that he was a terrorist of his tribe or his tribe had ever indulged in drug trafficking. He said that in the recent past the political authorities of Mohamand Agency had offered him a large sum of money with a Pejaro jeep which he did not accept. He said that after his refusal, the government started clean-up operation in Mohamand Agency.

He alleged that the political authorities were responsible for deteriorating peaceful conditions in Mohamand Agency. He pointed out that while five heroin factories were demolished and no one was arrested.

He claimed that the real smugglers were still the chums and favourites of the political authorities and were seen travelling with them in their cars. He also alleged that the nine arrested terrorists who escaped form the custody of the militia were infact released by the political authorities.

He demanded the arrest of officials responsible for launching the cleanup operation in Mohmand Agency. He claimed that the packets of white powder which were exhibited as heroin were fictitious. He pointed out that despite the demolition of 200 shops in Mian Mandi no arms were recovered.

Malik Abdur Rehman has called upon all the tribes residing around Ghalanai to vacate their residences and participate in the "National Jirga which was going to be held on August 19. He said that it was just possible that the situation might further deteriorate after the national Jirga of Mohammand and Safi tribes and as a precautionary measure, all the area around Ghalania, the Headquarters of Mohand Agency, should be evacuated.

Sri Lanka

Air Force Planes Begin Striking LTTE Targets

BK2008112191 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] Air Force planes have begun air strikes on LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] targets at Parantan, south of Elephant Pass, as Balawegaya ground troops prepared to capture the area from the terrorists. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH the terrorists were reported to have suffered heavy casualties as the Air Force planes strafed and bombed LTTE bunkers and hideouts in Parantan. The sources said terrorists, who have been pushed back beyond the extended outer perimeter south of the Elephant Pass camp, have retreated to Parantan and Kilinochchi. The current Air Force operations are part of the exercise to further extend the forward defended locality of the Elephant Pass security forces camp.

Meanwhile, official sources said LTTE radio intercepts revealed that the LTTE's Mullaitivu leader, Manu Master, has said that both the LTTE's military and political wing leaders had been consulted and given their unanimous approval to the battle plans which led to the Tigers' crushing defeat at Elephant Pass, the worst ever suffered by the LTTE. Manu Master, who was addressing a public meeting at Mullaitivu chaired by citizens committee chairman, Shanmuganathan, held at the Mullaitivu Mahavidyalaya [college], had said the LTTE after its defeat at the Elephant Pass was now at the crossroads and exhorted Tamils to sacrifice their lives for the revolution.